

Mystery woman in Marcos wealth cases named

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GLORIA TAN CLIMACO: "Wields so much power without accountability. Who is she? Out of nowhere..."

'Superwoman' says GMA backs Naia 3 takeover

By Carlito Pablo
and Dona Pazzibugan

THE PRESIDENTIAL adviser whom critical congressmen have taken to calling "superwoman" defended her controversial proposal for government to take over Naia Terminal 3 yesterday.

"You ask me all the difficult ques-

tions, even about my integrity and everything. I will answer them," said Secretary Gloria Tan Climaco in a press briefing in Malacañang.

She said the proposed takeover won't benefit Philippine Airlines owner Lucio Tan, as Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) officials have charged.

"I will be the first one to object to

that because Mr. Tan is in a conflict of business with other users of the airport," Climaco said, referring to other international airlines.

"I can assure (you) that in the bidding rules, there will be disqualification of people with conflict of interest," she added.

"I can tell you honestly and I can bring (SGV founding chair) Washing-

ton Sycip in here that he and I never talked about Lucio Tan taking over this airport. I will be the first one to object to that," she said.

She said she had no interest in wanting to revoke Piatco's "onerous" contract other than to protect "the interest of the Filipino people."

Climaco, the presidential adviser for SUPERWOMAN/A6

Piatco: 'Twas Palace idea

Ramos says no to Gloria, won't see Mahathir...

By Norman Bordadora

DESPITE the administration's unofficial request for his assistance, Fidel Ramos is not about to use his friendship with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad to intercede for undocumented Filipinos in Malaysia.

The former President yesterday said the government should exhaust all means and resources in dealing with the alleged inhuman treatment of the undocumented Filipinos before assigning a private citizen to communicate on a personal level with the Malaysian leader.

But he said he would be available to the administration for consultation on how to deal with the crisis. He suggested that a meeting of the National Security Council be called on Monday, at the latest.

Ramos said it was Paul Dominguez, an adviser of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who phoned him Thursday evening. But the President herself made no formal request, he said.

"Let us do our homework before sending someone outside of government," Ramos said. "I suggest that the President call Prime Minister Mahathir

RAMOS/A20



"LET us do our homework before sending someone outside of government," former President Fidel Ramos advises President Macapagal during a press conference on Friday. "Let us take it easy. Don't panic," he adds.

VAL HANDUMON



THE "INGRATE" Abner Afuang torches the Malaysian flag in front of the Malaysian Embassy in Makati to protest the beastly treatment of Filipino deportees from Sabah.

ERIK ARAZAS

...SO/A20

Solons say gov't fronting for influential persons

By Abigail Ho, Juliet Javellana and Clarissa Batino

IT WAS the government, not the German investors in Philippine International Air Terminals Co., who raised the idea of taking over the controversial Naia Terminal 3 project.

Piatco counsel Eduardo delos Angeles yesterday told the INQUIRER that contrary to the testimony of Secretary Gloria Tan Climaco before the Senate blue ribbon committee on Thursday, it was not Frankfurt Airport Services Worldwide (Fraport) who first proposed the \$400-million buyout. In a letter to Climaco dated Aug. 6, Fraport officials "invited" the government to discuss "an amicable settlement."

But Delos Angeles disclosed that "in early July, (Climaco) already told me that the government wanted to take over. It was the government, not Fraport, who wanted to take over."

At that time, Delos Angeles recalled, Climaco said Fraport could be bought out for \$409 million, and the Chengs, the local partners in Piatco, for \$16.5 million. "Those were her numbers then," the ex-president of the Philippine Stock Exchange and former dean of the Ateneo de Manila College of Law said in a phone interview.

Climaco's proposed takeover has come under heavy fire from Congress and the business community, with legislators openly speculating about "an influential hand" directing affairs. Piatco itself has said it will sue the government, even before an international arbitration board, if the proposal is carried.

"Somebody wants to take over Naia 3 and it's not the government," Davao City Rep. Ruy Elias Lopez, chair of the House committee on good government, said in a phone interview.

The Makati Business Club warned that the takeover would have a negative impact on investor sentiment in the country.

Even the President's chief economic manager, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro

Camacho, had less than enthusiastic remarks about the proposal.

"I'm not familiar with the details of the Piatco deal but we will have to consider this in the context of privatization philosophy and our limited finances. The idea is for the government to get out of businesses and it also has to be viewed from our limited resources."

In July, the budget deficit widened to P133 billion, against a target of P130 billion.

At least five congressmen aired their suspicion that an "influential hand" that wants the Naia 3 project for itself was behind the government's move to buy out the Germans.

They are now poised to investigate Climaco, whom they described as a "superwoman" who wields "so much power without accountability."

"This move of government to take over is a wasteful commitment of funds and reckless display of power that will only turn off foreign and local investors," Bulacan Rep. Willy Villarama said.

It violates "all norms of business ethics, decency and legality," he added. "Is there a grand play behind this planned takeover of Piatco?"

"Common business sense will say that selling a 97-percent completed

PIATCO/A6

... So she calls Malaysian PM herself

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo phoned Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad last night to discuss the plight of thousands of Filipinos being deported from Sabah.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters that the two leaders had "agreed substantially on issues." He said the President would issue a statement on the matter today.

Bunye also said Ms Macapagal's request that former President Fidel Ramos touch base with Mahathir "has been settled," but did not say how. (See story on this page.)

Ms Macapagal made the call to Mahathir during a meeting with various officials in Malacañang over the deportation issue.

Among those present were Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, Foreign

...SO/A20

Mystery informant in Marcos cases identified

By Donna S. Cueto

MYSTERY woman "Madame Z," who had information on the alleged "midnight" transfers of at least \$400 million in secret Marcos funds, has been identified in the United States.

In a national biweekly magazine in the United States, "In These Times," New York-based journalist Lucy Komisar wrote: "The attorney, Marie-Gabrielle Koller—named in this article for the first time—first testified about the events behind closed doors before a French parliamentary commission in May 2000. Its report referred to her only as 'Madame Z.' Last year, the Quebec native sent her information to US authorities, but elicited no interest from Washington. Now Koller, 46, has privately offered to provide evidence to the Philippine government in exchange for a cut of the amount recovered. With interest, the hidden \$400 million would

MYSTERY/A5



Grandpa's law to apply in case of Jaworski son.

By TJ Burgonio

IN A STRANGE twist of fate, Ryan Jaworski found himself charged yesterday with a law his own grandfather, Sen. Ramon Revilla, had pushed for in 1997.

Jaworski, 27, son of Sen. Robert Jaworski, and four of his friends were arrested on Wednesday night following reports they had indiscriminately fired their guns inside a posh subdivision in San Juan. The group reportedly admitted firing their guns but

GRANDPA'S/A5

Protesters called 'ungrateful, insolent'

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's foreign minister yesterday called Filipino protesters who burned portraits of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad "insolent" and ungrateful that his country had allowed migrant workers in.

"They have acted in an uncivilized way," Syed Hamid Albar said of protesters who burned Malaysia's flag and photographs of Mahathir during a protest at the Malaysian Embassy in Ma-

nila. "Have they forgotten this is the place that their countrymen earn a living? Is this how they show their appreciation?"

The protesters were angered by reports of maltreatment of illegal Filipino migrants being evicted in a Malaysian immigration crackdown, which resulted in the deaths of children.

Syed Hamid said he hoped that the

administration of Philippine President Macapagal-Arroyo would "check such actions . . . and protect the interests of Malaysians and the Malaysian Embassy there."

In Sandakan, Ismail Zakaria, deputy chief of the detention camp in Sabah, denied reports that children had died there.

He said TV footage of a mother

PROTESTERS/A19

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/31/02

Second FRONT PAGE

AFP: No Viets on Parola

By Martin P. Marfil

THE MILITARY yesterday denied that Vietnamese troops or fishermen had occupied Parola island but admitted that Vietnamese and Chinese vessels have been recently spotted near Parola which is part of the Kalayaan group in the Spratly island chain claimed by the Philippines.

"There is no truth to the allegation that Parola was taken by the Vietnamese. It's just a figment of the imagination," said Brig. Gen.

Eduardo Purificacion, the military spokesperson.

In Puerto Princesa, Palawan, head of the Western Command,

Maj. Gen. Manuel L. Carranza Jr., similarly branded the reports as "puro kasinungalingan" (all lies).

An ABS-CBN television report the other day claimed that Vietnamese poachers had occupied one of the Spratly islands claimed by the Philippines.

Other reports said that Vietnamese troops had occupied Parola island when Filipino soldiers left their post after being invited by some Vietnamese women to go sightseeing.

"I have just radioed our detachment there and they assured me that all is normal," Carranza told reporters in Puerto Princesa.

He offered to take any interested reporters to the Spratlys where they can see for themselves "if they can find even one Chinese/Vietnamese-looking person there."

In a report to Camp Aguinaldo, Carranza said that all five islands occupied by Filipino troops were well-guarded.

He explained that the Vietnamese fishermen were occupying not Parola but Pugad (or Pugal) island, which he said did not lie within the territory claimed by the Philippines.

Only a few weeks ago, a flag officer of the Philippine Navy had gone to Vietnam and concluded a mutual agreement between the Philippines and Vietnam regarding their claims on territorial waters surrounding the Spratlys, Carranza said.

If reports of the occupation are true, this will hardly be the first time that the Vietnamese have encroached on Parola island. **With a report from Diwa Aquino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**

Surigaonons 'know how to prepare halal food'

SURIGAO CITY—"We know how to prepare halal food."

Surigao del Norte Gov. Robert Lyndon Barbers yesterday said the needs of Muslim delegates to the 11th Mindanao Business Conference

(Minbizcon), which ended yesterday, were served well.

Barbers was reacting to an INQUIRER story about some Muslim delegates complaining of alleged shabby treatment by the Minbizcon organizers.

The governor demanded an apology for the "erroneous report," and threatened to sue the newspaper.

Surigao del Norte had hosted and helped organize the business meeting, in which more than 130 foreigners participated.

These included representatives from Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei, countries known for strict adherence to Islamic laws.

The customs, cultures and religions of the delegates had

been carefully considered in the preparations, Barbers said.

In a hastily called press conference, the governor branded the story as politically instigated.

Malaysia's head delegate, Industrial Development Minister Ismael Abdula, said the complaint did not come from his party.

"I was in Koronadal for the ninth Minbizcon," Abdula said. "I'm happy to be (in Mindanao again). Our accommodations are excellent, and the event is well-organized."

Gov. Fadel Mohammad of South Sulawesi, head of the Indonesian group, said he stayed with five others in a hotel room. "But we have no complaints. We are here for business, not as tourists."

Surigao City Mayor Alfonso Casura said it was sad that "a single article would negate (the success of the conference)."

Ma. Kristina E. Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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SPAV bill
'as good as dead,'
says John O

THE SPECIAL Purpose Asset Vehicle (SPAV) bill that President Macapagal-Arroyo has urged Congress to pass in order to plug the country's widening budget deficit is "as good as dead" in the Senate, opposition Sen. John Osmeña declared yesterday.

Osmeña said "there is already a bi-partisan move to reject" the SPAV, or Senate Bill No. 2116, which is meant to address the problem of the non-performing loans of banks currently estimated at 19 percent of the sector's loan portfolio.

The bill, which has been passed by the House, aims to provide incentives to asset management companies that will buy the bad loans and assets of domestic banks and other financial institutions.

Osmeña told a press conference there was a bi-partisan coalition made up of opposition and administration senators that are opposed to the key provisions of the bill.

Osmeña claimed that he was "at liberty to disclose" that administration Sen. Joke Arroyo would work with him to get the votes needed to block approval of the bill.

However, Arroyo, when contacted by the INQUIRER, asserted that while he was opposed to "some provisions of the bill, (he) was not entirely objecting to the passage of the SPAV law."

Osmeña cited Sections 13 and 15 of the current version of the bill as the most contentious and as not be acceptable to the senators.

He said the legislators were particularly concerned about Section 15 which would exempt banks from paying taxes on the sale of their non-performing assets. Rocky Nazareno

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Court junks gun raps against Satur, Bobbie

By Leila B. Salaverria

A MAKATI Regional Trial Court has dismissed for lack of evidence the 13-year-old charges of illegal possession of firearms against Bayan Muna Party List Rep. Satur Ocampo and his wife Carolina "Bobbie" Malay.

Judge Rebecca Mariano of Branch 136 of the Makati RTC said the charges were dismissed after the prosecution said they no longer had any evidence to prove the guilt of the accused.

The Court of Appeals had earlier resolved that the search conducted on Ocampo's home in 1989 was illegal, making the two guns seized by the raiding team inadmissible in court.

"The prosecution joined the defendants in a plea for the dismissal of the case," Mariano said.

In an interview, Ocampo yesterday said he was grateful for the dismissal of the case.

"I appreciate the Justice Department's order for the prosecution not to object to our omnibus motion," he said, speaking in Filipino. "The dismissal is an indictment, not of me, but of the police officers who arrested me."

He explained that the decision showed the police had engaged in an illegal search and had not followed the proper procedures.

The couple's Makati home was searched by the now defunct Constabulary Security Group, then headed by Col. Robert Delfin. A .45 cal. pistol and .38 cal. Revolver were found in the house, but Ocampo claimed the guns were planted.

The case was archived after the CA ruling.

Ocampo earlier said the revival of the case after more than a decade was suspicious, but that he was giving Mariano the benefit of the doubt.

Yesterday, Mariano reiterated that the revival was merely procedural, part of the regular docket inventory of the courts, and not in anyway linked to politics.

3 Negros cops killed by soldiers?

By Alex V. Pal and Rommy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Authorities are investigating reports that Army troops on Tuesday killed three policemen responding to reports of an ambush in Guihulngan town, Negros Oriental.

The soldiers had allegedly mistaken the policemen for communist rebels who had just ambushed and killed Senior Insp. Leopito Gallego of nearby Vallehermoso town, and his driver, SPO3 Cipriano Saludes. SPO1 Cielo Cupta was also wounded in the ambush.

Killed in the second encounter were Senior Insp. Remil Vizcaya of Guihulngan Police and his two men, SPO4 Modesto Lagusad and SPO4 Jaime Provechado. Wounded were SPO2 Cecilio Nilles and SPO1 Raghur Barrio.

Lt. Col. Rolando Picar, 66th Infantry Battalion commander, said in a telephone interview that Philippine Army investigators were looking into allegations that his soldiers had fired at the civilian-clad policemen during pursuit operations against New People's Army guerrillas.

Gen. Roy Cimatu, Armed Forces Chief of Staff, reportedly ordered the investigation.

A parallel probe by the police Regional Internal Affairs Service in Central Visayas is also ongoing, on orders of Senior Supt. Ernesto Belen, regional director.

A spokesperson for the NPA has owned up to the first ambush, but said the soldiers were to blame for the second round of casualties.

On Tuesday, the NPA guerrillas opened fire on Gallego's car as it passed through Barangay Basak in the coastal town of Guihulngan, some 127 kilometers north of Dumaguete.

Upon receiving reports of the attack, police chief Vizcaya hurriedly assembled a team of eight policemen and left for the site on board a dump truck. In their haste, most of the policemen were not able to don their uniforms.

About a kilometer from Basak, the team was met with gunfire from the thickly vegetated hillside.

"We couldn't see them," SPO2 Cecilio Nilles recounted. So they just jumped from the truck and ran in the opposite direction, towards the sea.

Nilles was wounded in the leg by a grenade shrapnel, and survived by hiding in a creek. The others boarded a small banca to flee the pursuing attackers. Vizcaya and his two men were

labeled in the gunfight.

Rescuers found Besario floating in the water at 2 a.m. Wednesday, and brought him for treatment to Dumaguete City. He refused to be interviewed.

Guihulngan Mayor Cesar Macalua quoted Besario as saying that the responding policemen were "attacked by friendly forces."

Over 60 scuba divers from Dumaguete and San Carlos Cities joined in the search for the casualties, but only the body of Provechado was recovered, at 7 a.m. yesterday.

"Ka Boyet" Maguillas, spokesperson of the NPA's Leonardo Panaligan Command, said Gallego was killed "because of his active involvement in the anti-insurgency campaign," and because he was being "used by despotic politicians."

In an interview over radio station dyWC Radyo Bandilyo, Maguillas apologized to the families of the slain driver and the wounded officer.

Maguillas said soldiers at the scene shot had mistaken the responding Guihulngan policemen for NPA rebels. He said his group had started to retreat when the policemen arrived. He admitted that the rebels had fired at Vizcaya's team, "but only to delay them."

The policemen had regrouped in the shoreline, Maguillas said, when the soldiers started firing at them.

On Wednesday, the army infantry battalion commander was quoted by the Visayan Daily Star as saying that "responding soldiers encountered another group of fleeing NPA ambushers along the coastline of Guihulngan."

Picar told the newspaper that a brief gunbattle had led to the capsizing

of two bancas being used by the fleeing rebels, and the recovery of an M-16 assault rifle.

Ownership of the rifle was subsequently traced to SPO1 Besario. With an AP report

Gov't, NDF vow to resume peace talks

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

NEGOTIATORS for the government and the communist-led National Democratic Front met yesterday and vowed to work for the resumption of the stalled peace talks, albeit in general terms, amid calls by Church-based groups for a just and lasting solution to the 22-year-old armed conflict.

Members of the two panels came face to face yesterday in a gathering of more than 300 Catholic and Protestant leaders and peace advocates in Quezon City to mark the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Hague Joint Declaration in the Netherlands which paved the way for the start of talks on Sept. 1, 1992.

"This forum sends a signal to both parties that the resumption of the peace talks is still possible in this administration," said Romeo Capulong, general counsel for the NDF panel.

The NDF leadership earlier declared that it was reexamining its policy of talking peace with the government after President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of an all-out war on the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army.

"The situation is now more pressing due to obtrusive foreign interference, with the US declaration that the CPP-NPA-NDF is a foreign terrorist organization and thus a target of attacks," said the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, one of the organizers of the forum.

The United States State Department last month declared the CPP-NPA a "foreign terrorist organization," a move which drew protests not just from the NDF, the CPP's political arm, but also from non-govern-

ment organizations pushing for the resumption of the stalled talks.

Rev. Dr. Domingo Diel Jr., NCCP chair, said the efforts invested in the peace process should not go to waste.

The peace forum was co-sponsored by the Philippine Peace Center, the Congress of Teachers and Educators for Nationalism and Democracy (Contend) and the Interfaith Network for Justice and Peace.

Silvestre Bello III, the chair of the government negotiating panel, assured the peace advocates that "we are going to have peace negotiations," and he hoped it would be soon.

He urged the peace advocates whom he called the "constituents of the peace process" to help the government and the NDF to talk again and not exacerbate the division.

He reiterated the President's position to "keep communication lines open" with the NDF.

Asked if the government's openness to a resumption of the talks indicated that it was not adopting the US declaration, Bello said that was not a concern of the government panel.

"Our mandate is to negotiate," he said. "The President's position is that the peace negotiations will give an opportunity for the CPP-NPA-NDF to show that they are not terrorists."

Bello said he was optimistic that "peace can be achieved," although he was not sure if it would be in this generation.

"How many years from now, I don't know. I may no longer be around when that time comes but what is important is the sincerity of both panels to bring the peace talks to its logical end which is a just and lasting peace for our country," he said.

Rebels step up attacks—AFP

COMMUNIST guerrillas have stepped up attacks on civilian targets in the past week, with the burning of a bus in Leyte and heavy equipment at a tree plantation in Agusan del Sur, the military said yesterday.

The New People's Army rebels on Tuesday raided a plantation owned by Provident Tree Farms Inc. in Talacogon, Agusan del Sur and torched heavy equipment before escaping.

NPA rebels also burned a passenger bus last weekend near the town of Villaba in Leyte. The gunmen had flagged down the bus,

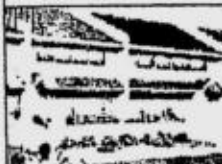
told the passengers to disembark and then burned the vehicle, the military said in a report.

Authorities say the attacks may be related to NPA extortion demands that were rejected.

Exiled communist insurgent leader Jose Maria Sison this month called on the NPA to mount renewed attacks on all fronts, in order to cause "calculated economic disruption." AFP

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Jinggoy back at Makati Med

FORMER San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada was allowed again by the Sandiganbayan yesterday to seek medical treatment outside detention "for humanitarian reasons."

The anti-graft court, which only two months ago investigated the alleged party Estrada threw for his visitors at the Makati Medical Center (MMC), allowed his return to the private hospital for the sixth time.

It granted the Aug. 23 pleading of his personal physician Larry Hocson for Jinggoy to undergo colonoscopy at the MMC for rectal bleeding.

In a two-page ruling, the court said Estrada can leave his detention suite at Veterans Memorial Medical Center today and stay at the MMC for five days. **Volt Contreras**

NIDA'S MURDER

Ex-spy chief goes to NBI

By Jerome Aning

WITH five lawyers in tow, former military intelligence chief Galileo Kintanar, who has been implicated in the Nida Blanca murder, filed his counter-affidavit yesterday at the National Bureau of Investigation headquarters.

Kintanar has strongly denied the allegations of Alfredo "Aldo" Rodriguez, the NBI's latest witness, against him.

Earlier, in an interview over radio station dzBB, Kintanar said Rodriguez

was "part of a conspiracy to mislead investigators." He said there could be "an intention to divert attention from the real suspects to me."

The ex-general denounced his portrayal as "a maintainer of hired killers," saying "I hardly know any of them."

Rodriguez previously tagged engineer Vicente Polinar, who he said was Kintanar's henchman, as the one who led in monitoring Blanca's activities weeks before the murder.

The witness also claimed there had been an attempt to silence him.

He said a certain Efren, another employee of Kintanar's, nearly hacked him to death in Tarlac last December.

Kintanar said the stabbing incident was Rodriguez's "own doing," adding that the latter was "a trouble maker."

He reiterated that he didn't know Philip Medel or Blanca's husband Rod Strunk, principal suspects in the celebrated case. He also denied the claim of other NBI witnesses that he had met actress Gina Pareño through Strunk.

Beware of fake papers, PRC warns examinees

THE PROFESSIONAL Regulation Commission (PRC) yesterday warned a new professional licensure examinees of the proliferation of fake documents that can nullify the results of their examinations.

Latest in PRC's all-out war against unscrupulous syndicates is the alarming discovery of some 20,000 fake postage stamps that were submitted by examinees for the mailing of their Reports of Ratings for various licensure examinations. The Reports of Ratings, or examination results, with fake stamps were returned to PRC by the Philippine Post Office recently.

In addition, the PRC annulled the examinations taken by 45 examinees in the physicians' licensure examinations this August for submitting fraudulent or invalid certificates of Refresher Course. The refresher course is required for examinees who have failed three times in licensure examinations conducted by the Board of Medicine. For the refresher course to be acceptable, it should be taken in a medical school or college for a period of one year.

"We urge the examinees to be vigilant in the use of only official documents or they will jeopardize their dreams of becoming professionals," Antonieta Fortuna-Ibe, PRC Chair said in a statement.

To remedy the delay in the issuance of professional licenses due to the fake documents, Ibe asked examinees who took various licensure examinations between July and December 2001 and who have been waiting for their board examination results for months now to personally visit PRC starting Sept. 2.

To accommodate the expected surge in visitors, Ibe has ordered that PRC office hours be extended up to Saturdays beginning next week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. However, there will be no issuance of professional identification cards and other documents on Saturdays due to the lack of personnel to render service to all clients, Ibe said.

RP sailors notorious for phony documents

By Blanche S. Rivera

MANY Filipino seafarers have been found out to be using fraudulent documents to gain employment, the International Maritime Organization said.

In a study, the IMO revealed that while Filipinos dominate the seafaring industry, they also have the highest number of reported cases of fraudulent certificates.

Citing the report, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines said that "there is a perception among international shipping companies of the prevalence of fraudulent certificates among Filipinos."

Bishop Ramon Arguelles, chairman of the CBCP ecumenical commission on migrant and itinerant

workers said that the big problem of seafarers is the confusing processing in getting their papers.

Arguelles said that seafarers need to go to eight government agencies, like the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority and the Maritime Industry Authority, to get their documents.

Filipino seafarers compose 28.5 percent of total population of the world's seafarers, way ahead of Russians with 7.3 percent, Ukrainians 6.2 percent, Poland 5.9 percent and China 5.4 percent.

Remittances of seafarers account for 21 percent of the total Overseas Filipino Workers remittances, which average \$6 billion annually, Arguelles said.

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EAST ASIA POWER

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

FOR : The Stockholders of EAST ASIA POWER RESOURCES CORPORATION

FROM : The Secretary

SUBJECT : 2002 Annual Stockholders' Meeting on September 12, 2002

Please be informed that the annual stockholders' meeting of EAST ASIA POWER RESOURCES CORPORATION (the "Corporation") is moved from September 4, 2002 to Thursday, September 12, 2002, at 9:00 a.m. at the EDSA Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila.

Only common stock shareholders as of August 12, 2002, shall be entitled to notice and to vote at the said meeting.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2001 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on 18 July 2001
4. Annual Report of the President
5. Ratification of all Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers
6. Election of Members of the Board of Directors
7. Appointment of External Auditors
8. Presentation and Discussion of Proposed Resolution to Reduce the Number of Directors from Nine (9) to Seven (7), and Amending the Articles of Incorporation for such purpose
9. Other Matters
10. Adjournment

The Minutes of the last Annual Stockholders' Meeting and resolutions of the Board of Directors will be available for inspection during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary. In addition, copies of the minutes will also be made available together with this Notice.

JOSE A. FERIA, Jr.
Corporate Secretary

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Zepeda-Puno, 79

MARIA Zepeda Puno died yesterday morning at their Quezon City residence after a lingering illness. She would have been 80 on Sept. 10.

The deceased is survived by husband Floriano and children Elizabeth, Manny and Marissa, Nila, Peping and Jane, and Monette.

Her remains lie at the family residence at 11 no. 44 Marang St., Project 2, Quezon City.

She will be buried at the Holy Cross Memorial Park in Novaliches, Quezon City, on a date to be announced later.

Mrs. Puno worked for more than 30 years as an accountant of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

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Piatco: 'Twas Palace idea

From page A1

project for less than the project cost is a bit strange if not stupid. Is there an influential hand behind this deal? Is the government fronting for somebody? Is this going to be the policy of government, to grab flagship projects that are almost complete?" Villarama said.

"There's something fishy here because the government is privatizing (even when) it has no money. I thought we are in a deficit. How come we are buying (the Naia 3 contract)?" said Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto V. Paras, chair of the House committee on transportation and communications.

The two committees conducted separate investigations on the Piatco deal but Paras said the findings were the same: the Piatco contract was valid and binding.

The good government committee has not yet issued its report, but Lopez said he personally found the contract valid although some provisions needed to be clarified.

Paras cautioned President Macapagal-Arroyo against approving Climaco's recommendation, saying the "consequences will be bad for her administration."

"I don't know if the President is aware of the implications but this will divide the nation. Even Congress will be divided and the approval of the Transco and Spav bills will be derailed," Paras added.

He was referring to the National Transmission Corp. franchise and the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle bills.

Paras said that under the Constitution, the government can take over industries only when there is a state of emergency.

"And if the contract is onerous, only the courts can decide that," Paras added. But he said his committee did not find anything anomalous in the Piatco deal.

Motives questioned

Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles, chair of the House housing committee, questioned Climaco's motive for making the recommendation.

"The feeling I get is that Climaco is more interested in protecting the interest of the Germans than the interest of the country," Nograles said.

"Who is she? Out of nowhere she appears and she is the unseen hand ... who gives the President wrong advice," Nograles said.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, chair of the House defense committee, said the government will be sending the wrong signals if it adopts Climaco's recommendation.

"We have a big budget deficit but here is an extravagant adviser who wants the government to buy a private contract for a hefty price," Pichay said.

Paras, Lopez and Nograles said somebody influential must be behind Climaco's move.

"After buying it out, the government will surely sell it again. So to whom will they sell it?" Nograles said.

"This proposal of Secretary

Climaco clearly violates the concession franchise between government and Piatco which gives Piatco the franchise to construct, manage and operate Naia 3 terminal for 25 years," Villarama said.

"Now that the terminal is 97 percent complete, it is inappropriate for government to wrest control of the terminal," Villarama said in a statement.

He said that there was no compelling reason for government to borrow funds when under the build-operate-transfer law and the concession agreement the terminal will be handed over to the government at the end of the concession period for P1.

Nograles filed a resolution asking the House to investigate the creation of a "superbody" headed by Climaco.

Nograles said the President issued an executive order creating a strategic projects advisory council headed by Climaco. In this capacity, Climaco can review "any and all concerns" of the government, making her a "superwoman."

Audacity of adviser

The influential Makati Business Club, an association of the country's biggest companies, said the proposed takeover was a dismal idea.

"News of a government takeover would reverberate around the world and foreign investors would start questioning our BOT and privatization policies," said executive director Guillermo Luz. "This would have serious implications on

future funding of BOT projects and investor interest in privatization of government assets."

Luz questioned the audacity of a mere presidential adviser to announce a major policy decision such as the state takeover of Piatco. He said the decision, which has not even been discussed at the Cabinet level, has opened the possibility of mere advisers setting policy directions for the economy.

Piatco, for its part, said it will engage the government in a legal battle if Malacañang pushes through with its "dictatorial" decision to take over the terminal.

"If they don't reconsider their position, we'll put up a big fight. The government can be sued in its capacity as a contracting party. We'll take our case to the regular courts or even to an international tribunal," Piatco vice president and spokesperson Moises Tolentino said.

He reasoned that the government was in no position to ease the local shareholders out, especially as the project is already near completion. If the government would insist on doing so without even giving the Chengs, Piatco's majority shareholder, a chance to air their side, there was no other way to settle the matter except by resorting to legal measures.

The only way to avoid a legal war, he said, was for President Macapagal-Arroyo to hear the local shareholders' side before finalizing the deal.

Piatco's local shareholders are also set to appear in the Senate blue ribbon committee hearing on

the Naia 3 issue on Tuesday.

Tolentino called on different business groups, including the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Makati Business Club, Employers Confederation of the Philippines, and the Management Association of the Philippines, to take a stand in this issue.

"This is a dictatorial policy. We see shades of martial law in the way the government is dealing with business people. Also, the tim-

ing is suspicious. Why do they want to take over just now when the terminal is almost finished? The Filipino saying, 'kami ang nagsaing, iba ang kakain.' (We cooked the food but somebody else ate it) comes to mind," he said.

"The government, just because it's government, can't just kick us out of the project," he said. **With reports from John Nery, Gil Cabacungan and Norman Bordadora**

Superwoman . . .

From page A1

special projects, also said the proposal to take over the terminal had President Macapagal-Arroyo's full support.

"Yes, there is support on the part of the President," Climaco said.

Climaco also said that with President Macapagal's endorsement of the buy-out, the government is talking with the Cheng family, the local partners in Piatco.

Climaco said that Frankfurt Airport Worldwide Services (Fraport) has offered to buy out the Chengs' stake in the company for \$20 million.

"So that's why we are talking to the Chengs, to see whether they will see the light and not stand in the way of progress," Climaco said.

She pointed out that the buyout will not cost the government a single centavo as the terms will be financed through a loan from Fraport under favorable terms.

The terms include a grace period of three to five years, a 15-year payment schedule and an interest rate of 6.2-6.5 per cent.

Climaco also said that the government intends to bid out the operations of Terminal 3 within 18-36 months and thereby cover the loan to be extended by Fraport.

She said she has not received any specific instructions from the President except "to negotiate for the best interest of the Filipino people."

So happy

Climaco said that Fraport chair Roland Koch was "so happy" over the way things were turning out that he may personally come to the Philippines when the agreement is signed. Koch is also prime minister (not president) of the German state of Hesse.

"His (Koch's) request is can we finish this by the end of September," Climaco said.

If the deal pushes through, the government expects to start operations of Terminal 3 by the first quarter of 2003.

"That's what we're running after, the first quarter," Climaco said.

She said that government intends to collect a passenger terminal fee of P600, which she noted will be substantially less than the \$20 being demanded by Piatco.

She also noted that most of the onerous provisions were incorpo-

rated in the revised concession agreement, which was reached during the administration of President Joseph Estrada.

Climaco noted that the so-called Amended and Restated Concession Agreement signed on Nov. 26, 1998 had no approval from the National Economic and Development Authority.

She said that the review she has undertaken regarding the Piatco concession is part of the President's commitment to rid government of corruption.

"When the President said she intends to be remembered, what it means is that she doesn't want corruption in government," Climaco said.

"That's the reason why we're cleaning contracts. We want the Filipino people to pay the right price for the service we are giving," she added.

No interest

Climaco, former chair of SGV, said she no longer had substantial business interests of her own in the country.

"And you should know that I have no interest whatsoever in this country anymore. I don't sit in the board of any company that belongs to any of the AEDC (Asia's Emerging Dragons Corporation) partners," referring to companies owned by taipans Tan, Henry Sy, Andrew Gokongwei, John Gokongwei, Alfonso Yuchengco and Leonardo Ty.

Before her appointment as presidential adviser this year, Climaco, spent over five years as president and chief executive officer of Crown Equities, Inc., an investment holding company, and as co-managing director of Argosy Partners Inc., an investment advisory firm.

Prior to joining Crown Equities, Inc., Climaco spent two decades in the prestigious accounting firm SGV & Co., rising from the ranks until she became the youngest and only female chair and managing partner of the firm.

The President created the Office of Adviser for Special Projects on Feb. 26, 2002.

But as early as December last year though, Climaco was already known to have been designated to review the controversial Piatco-Naia 3 contract.

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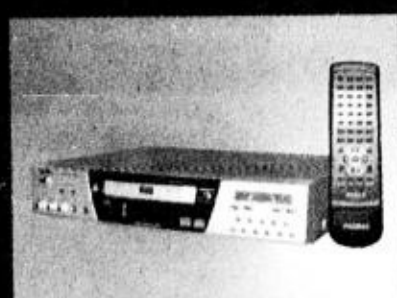


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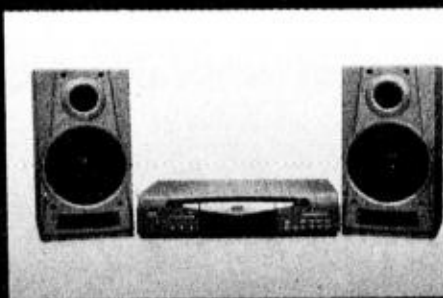
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WHO chief urges restraint in use of mobile phones

JOHANNESBURG—The head of the World Health Organization urged people to limit use of mobile phones, saying she suffered headaches whenever one was switched on nearby.

"I'd be cautious" about using mobile phones, WHO Director-General Gro Harlem Brundtland, 63, told Reuters on the sidelines of the Earth Summit in Johannesburg on Thursday.

"There's no reason to use them more than absolutely necessary or let children, for instance, talk on them for hours," she said. "We don't know that it's safe." Surveys of whether microwave emissions from mobile phones can damage health have turned up no firm evidence of a link to tumors or cancer, she said.

Reuters

Aussie study finds no link in cell phone use and cancer

SYDNEY—Australian scientists said Friday that new research had found no link between the use of digital mobile telephones and cancer.

The team at Adelaide's Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science said its latest findings contradicted an earlier study which concluded that longtime use of cellular telephones could cause cancer.

In the latest project, researchers exposed 1,600 genetically modified and "wild type" mice to differing levels of mobile phone radiation for an hour a day over two years.

The scientists found no increase in the mice's lymphoma rate, even though the transgenic mice had been bred with a "hair trigger" tendency to develop tumors in response to cancer-promoting changes in their environment.

The findings contradicted an earlier Adelaide study in which the same type of mice developed double the number of cancers when exposed to 900 megahertz

mobile phone radiation.

That study prompted widespread concern because it was the first reputable research pointing to a strong link between mobile phones and cancer.

The new research repeated the earlier work but with more mice and stricter control over how they were exposed to the radio frequency energy.

The leader of the latest project, Tim Kuchell, said other aspects of mobile phone radiation still had to be explored and were the subject of work now underway in Italy and elsewhere.

"We're left with some of the other questions about headaches, sleep disorders, etc.," Kuchell told ABC radio.

"Which can only really be answered satisfactorily with human studies and they are on going both in Australia and overseas," he said.

Results of the Adelaide study were published this week in the international journal Radiation Research.

AFP

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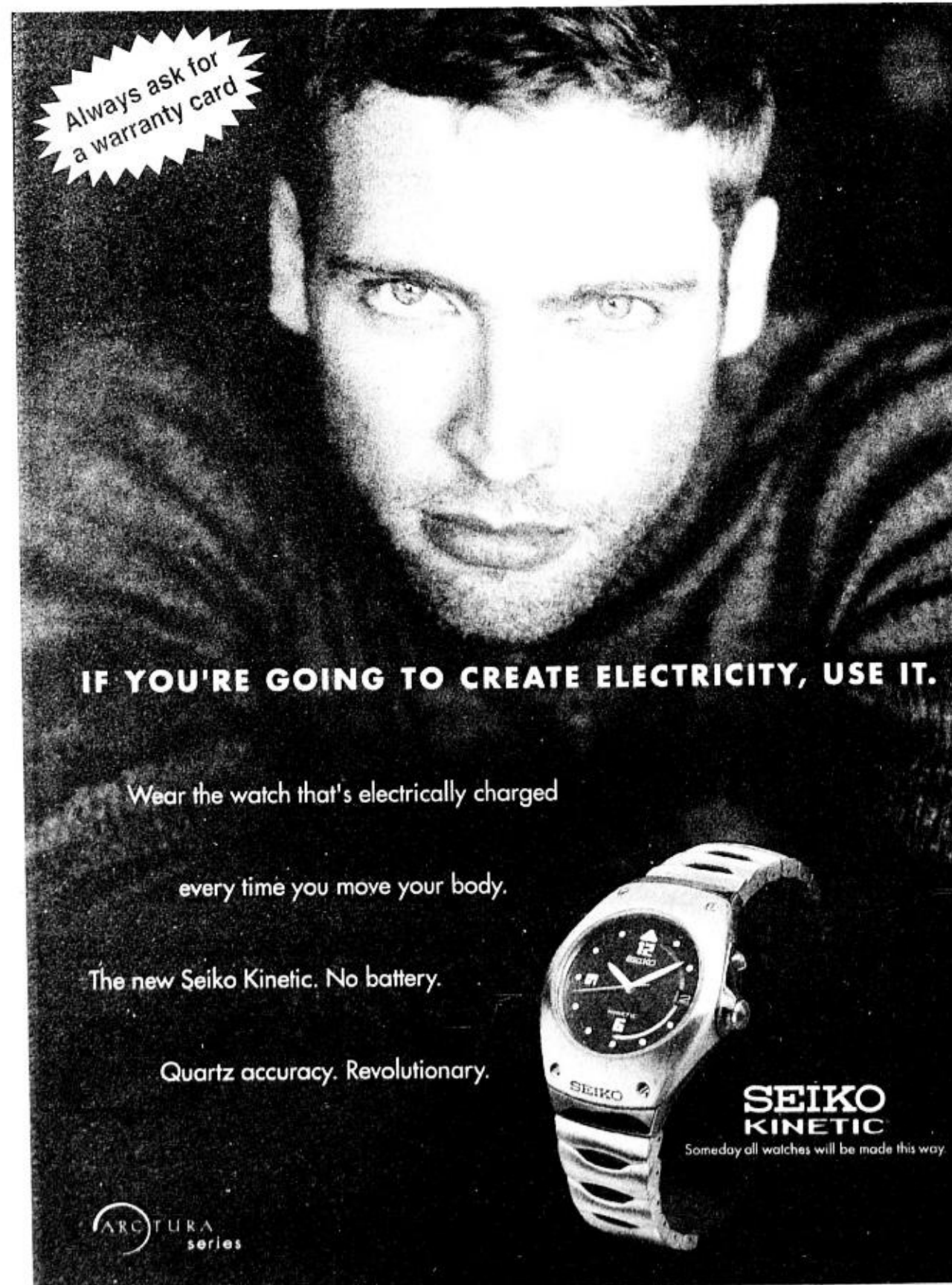
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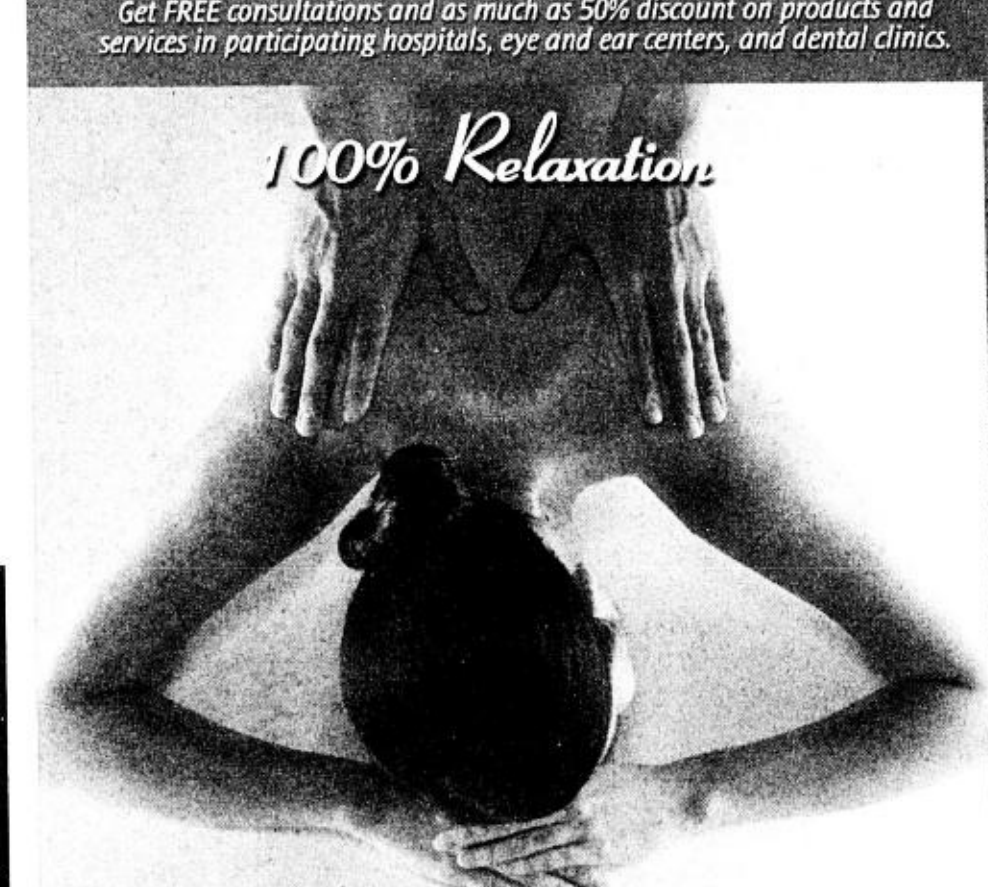
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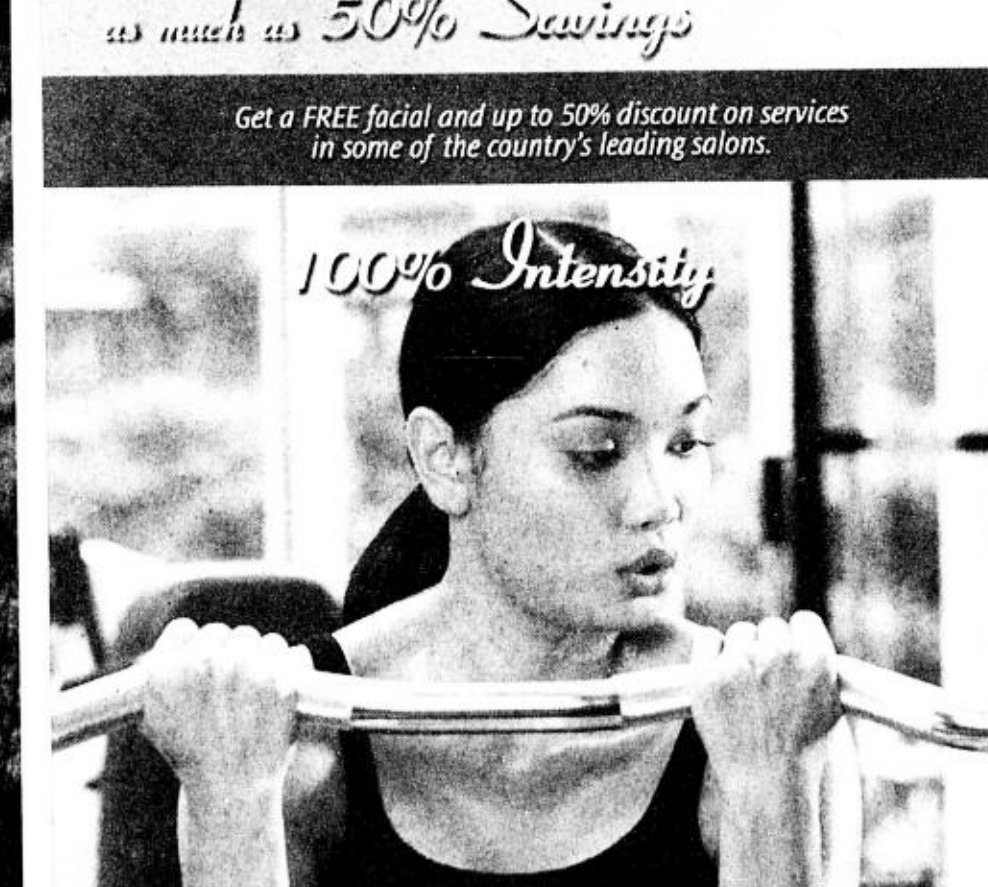
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Face of apocalypse

THE PHILIPPINES is a microcosm of the themes that concern the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development now under way in Johannesburg, South Africa. There, representatives of governments, business, trade unions, farmers, the scientific community and non-government organizations are meeting to seek ways of achieving sustainable development, defined as "meeting the needs of the present without ruining the environment and the means to supply the basic needs of future generations."

The issues springing from the summit's theme include poverty, dwindling water resources, forest depletion, diminishing fisheries and wildlife resources, population pressure on food supply, global warming, the unequal distribution of the benefits of globalization and subsidies by rich countries on exports that disadvantage poor nations.

The Johannesburg summit seeks to design a program of action to implement goals set by earlier summits, such as the one held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Previous conferences on similar themes have produced declarations that were rich in platitudes but poor in implementation.

The absence of US President George W. Bush, head of the richest and largest economy in the world, underlines his administration's indifference to environmental problems. Such indifference was highlighted by his rejection of the Kyoto Protocol on global warming in the face of the fact that the United States is a major source of industrial pollution.

President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa accented the great divide between rich and poor countries when he said in his keynote speech: "A global human society based on poverty for many and prosperity for a few, characterized by islands of wealth, surrounded by a sea of poverty, is unsustainable."

Filipinos are not new to these themes. We only need consider a few to realize their relevance: dwindling water resources, the depletion of natural and fisheries resources, pollution of our big cities and deficit in energy resources. Included in pollution is the disposal of garbage that swamps the metropolis. Recurrent flooding, stemming from forest depletion, forms part of our seasonal life, and so are inadequate drainage and sewerage. In a few weeks, we are expecting a new wave of El Niño that will wilt our crops.

Because we have abundant monsoon rains, which by the way we don't trap, we take water too much for granted. But water is a very serious environmental problem—either too much of it or too little. The river Danube in central Europe has had its worst flooding in recent memory, which is symptomatic of global climatic changes. On the other hand, international agencies warn that in 25 years, two-thirds of the world could be without water. The National Intelligence Council, which has links to the US Central Intelligence Agency, says that as countries "press against the limits of available water between now and 2015, the possibility of conflict will increase."

According to the United Nations, by 2015 at least 40 percent of the world's population, or about three billion people, will live in countries where it is difficult or impossible to get enough water to satisfy basic needs. Asia faces a looming water crisis. The Asian Development Bank says water resources in the region are under stress from widespread overuse and pollution caused by poverty and bad management. "With a burgeoning population, the pressures on Asia's water resources are rapidly becoming acute," the ADB report says. "For the first time, water security is a live issue in the region."

This looming crisis requires more than privatization to avert.

The depletion of marine resources has been bewailed in this country for a long time, and yet dynamite fishing and destruction of coral reefs continue unabated.

A UN report says more than a quarter of the world's fisheries are over-utilized and half are exploited at full capacity. Overall, 75 percent of the world's fisheries require immediate steps to freeze or reduce fishing to ensure a future supply of fish. Almost a quarter of the world's coral reefs have been completely destroyed, and an additional 20 to 30 percent are threatened with destruction within the next 10 years. This rapid depletion is being caused not only by large-scale commercial fishing but by poor people who use destructive methods to catch fish.

The tableau in Johannesburg is apocalyptic. This is the compelling reason behind the summit's call for political will and timetables for concrete programs—not just another declaration of platitudes.



A soluble conflict

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



LIKE many Filipinos, I am disturbed by the reports of the maltreatment of many of our compatriots who have been deported by the Malaysian government, for lack of immigration papers. If true, such misconduct deserves the strongest condemnation and the imposition of condign punishment upon the erring state...

There is no question that the deportees have been verified as undocumented foreigners and that they had been given sufficient time to leave the country voluntarily. It is also conceded that, as territorial sovereign, Malaysia has the right to bar or remove from its territory undesirable aliens, including those who have surreptitiously entered and are illegally staying there.

Following the new strict immigration laws it is now implementing, some 64,000 Filipinos are said to have already returned to our country voluntarily. About 4,000 are in detention centers awaiting deportation, and there are probably more of our countrymen to be similarly dealt with among the half a million Filipinos now living in Sabah.

The Philippines claims Sabah as part of our territory, but this is rejected by Malaysia, which says that the oil-rich area belongs to it. Efforts of the Philippine government to take the dispute to the International Court of Justice have failed because of the opposition of Malaysia. Under the Statute of the World Court, its jurisdiction is based on the consent of the parties, and Malaysia has not agreed to be sued.

The majority of Filipinos now living in Malaysia are there mainly for economic reasons only. The dispute over Sabah does not concern them except as a possible excuse to validate their stay in that place if the Philippine position is sustained. But this is an improbable hope. The claim first made by President Diosdado Macapagal was no more viable then than it is now under his daughter's administration.

Our government has not manifested much solicitude for the welfare of the Filipinos living in Sabah. It is only now that our officials have seen fit to commiserate with the deportees and protest the injuries allegedly inflicted on them by the land of their choice that has now expelled them. Previous alleged abuses committed by Malaysia have not received the front-page attention we are now giving to the present discord.

Characteristically, President Gloria has gotten into the act like the trouper that she is. She has visited the receiving center of the deportees in Tawi-Tawi to check if they are being given the necessary assistance to her Cabinet members and the local officials. Some deportees were reportedly not allowed to disembark until the President had arrived to meet them personally and stress her concern for their welfare.

As welcome as these gestures may be, one cannot help wondering if they are also sincere. After all, now that these ejected Filipinos are back in the land they had rejected, they can vote as qualified citizens in the presidential election in 2004. Hopefully for Gloria? This is not cynical conjecture if we consider that her well-publicized acts of self-levitation are all part of her premature campaign to be President of the Philippines in her own right.

According to the deportees, they were subjected to inhumane treatment in the detention centers in Malaysia, resulting in the death of several of them, including children who were buried in that country. Hundreds of the return-

ing Filipinos were jam-packed into rickety vessels and were not provided with adequate food and medicines. Some were dehydrated. Family members were separated from each other and more children died during the voyage home.

Malaysia denies these charges and insists that the deportees were treated well in the detention centers and during their passage to the Philippines. They were given three adequate meals a day and medicines were available on request. There was no overcrowding in the air-conditioned buses where they rode to the centers and later to the launches that took them back to the Philippines. They were treated courteously along with other undocumented aliens from Indonesia and other countries.

Who is telling the truth?

Every state has the right, as inherent in sovereignty and essential to its own security and existence, to determine in what cases and under what condition foreigners may be admitted into its territory. This right carries with it the right to expel those who have entered it illegally or have committed other acts in violation of its laws and inimical to its interests.

Nevertheless, expulsion of undesirable aliens must be carried out in accordance with international law and comity. For all their faults and shortcomings, they must still be treated with full observance of their human rights and in deference to their states of origin as members of the community of nations.

A DFA spokesman said the Philippines was taking a "calibrated response" to the issue, whatever that means. Why can't our bureaucrats speak sensible and unpretentious English? For my part, I would suggest that the dispute be submitted to the UN Commission on Human Rights for an impartial investigation of the controverted facts and an amicable settlement of the dispute between the neighboring sister states.

Same dog, different collar

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod



I hope that the following facts will help disabuse him of his misperceptions.

First, there is a Computerized Voters' List based on the 1997 general registration. The MIS-Comelec has it, and all the election officers have their own respective data bases.

Second, the Philippines is now under a system of continuing registration. New voters can register at any time instead of waiting for specific dates set aside for the purpose, the only caveat being that continuing registration should stop 120 days before an election. What continuing registration means is that the voters' list is kept up to date.

Third, a voters' list of 36 million registered voters, which some Comelec commissioners think is too high and reflects "padding" or multiple registrations, is actually well within the figure of potential voters based on medium-assumption population projections. These show that the number of Filipinos 20 years old and over in 2001 was 42.1 million. Including the 18- and 19-years-olds, the number could very well reach 45 million. These suspicious commissioners should please do their homework.

How "clean" is the voters' list generated from the 1997 general registration and whatever continuing registration took place? An indicator would be the results of a project undertaken by the MIC Holdings Corp. in cooperation with the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), and Cybersoft, and with the blessings of the Benipayo Comelec, some time before the elections last year. Using a total of 8.3 million voter records provided by the MIS-Comelec (5.1 million from the NCR

and 3.2 million from 26 other key cities—the only region not represented was Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco's region, as it seems she refused to cooperate), the project, named FindPrecinct.com/Find Multiple, found that multiple registrants in the NCR accounted for a mere 0.3 percent of the total voters' list, while multiple registrants in the 26 other key cities accounted for a smaller 0.2 percent.

That looks pretty "clean" by even the strictest standards. So what "padding" are they talking about? Moreover, there is nothing to prevent the Abalos Comelec from extending the work to cover the entire voters' list—except its own stubbornness.

How much did the project cost? All of P5 million. And the kicker is that the P5 million was pro bono—MIC Holdings and Cybersoft wanted to demonstrate what could be done with the existing Comelec voters' list as well as do a public service for the 2001 elections. All that the Comelec paid for was the cost of transporting and housing their election officers for the workshop. That's a far cry from P6.6 billion and P1 billion.

What the above discussion suggests is that the dog with a different collar is also barking up the wrong tree. A "dirty" or "padded" voters' list is not the problem, and the Abalos Comelec should stop insisting that it is. The cheating that takes place is not so much the "retail" type—thanks also in large part to the indelible ink placed on voters' fingers—but the "wholesale" type, which is why computerization of election counting is so important, but it is meeting so much resistance from a misguided Comelec.

And cleaning or removing the padding requires only for the ERB to post the lists in every barangay, and let the community do the rest—which will cost next to nothing. It certainly does not require fingerprinting, pictures, etc., etc., which coincidentally would require the services of a company like—you guessed it—Photokina.

Bombshell

POLITICAL
TIDBITSBelinda
Olivares-Cunanan

Then, too, why is the buy-out being planned now, when the airport is 97 percent finished? And why deal with the minority partner and leave the Cheng family, which owns 60 percent, out in the cold?

There is again here the same rush-rush and hush-hush manner that has characterized the government's moves in other spheres. Piatco's lawyer, Eduardo de los Angeles, has warned that the government could face a lawsuit if it pushes through with the takeover.

There are other mysteries in the Piatco case. The perception is that Climaco was appointed for the sole purpose of finding defects in this project, so that it could be derailed. The perception is that from the day she was appointed, she seemed set to fish for evidence as she badgered the private and foreign investors to submit to an audit by the Commission on Audit, despite the fact that all the funds used in this build-operate-transfer project are private. Since Climaco is not a lawyer (she used to be the top gun at the Sycip Gorres & Velayo accounting firm), she gets support from Presidential Legal Adviser Avelino "Nonong" Cruz. Observers note that both have displayed unusual interest in the Piatco project, conducting their own investigations despite the many others done before.

The question being asked now is, to borrow Paras' term, who are their "secret partners"? Climaco was quoted by the Star yesterday as saying, that the government has "the option to sell the terminal and the franchise later on." The question begging for an answer is: To whom?

Some Piatco watchers see the hand of taipan Lucio Tan and the Carpio Villaraza Cruz law office in this issue. Interestingly, Piatco vice president Moises Tolentino was quoted by the Inquirer as claiming that lawyers identified with this law firm, "including Cruz and Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio, were responsible for the surprising turn of events." Said Tolentino: "I think they have a hand here. That is the talk of the town. That cannot be denied anymore. That is the buzz in legal circles."

Paras has expressed "strong suspicion" that Climaco wants to "derail the project, even to the detriment of the Filipino people on behalf of her secret partners." He didn't name her alleged "secret partners," but in this town where there are few secrets, the rumor is that Climaco is in league with the famous lawyers. Inevitably the speculation about Tan and the Carpio Villaraza law office stems from the fact that the Asian Emerging Dragons Corp. (AEDC), which is chaired by Tan, filed a petition with the Pasig regional trial court on April 18, 1997 against officials of the Department of Transportation and Communication and the airport, who were members of the prequalification bids and awards committee. Tan questioned in court the committee's decision to recommend to President Ramos the award of Terminal 3 to Piatco.

It's not difficult to see why Piatco won that bid over AEDC. The latter offered to pay the government P5 million every year for 27 years or a total of P135 million, while Piatco offered increasing amounts of P300 million to P710 million every year for 27 years, or a total of P17.750 billion. The difference was a staggering P17.615 billion.

Ultimately Tan agreed to a joint motion to dismiss the case. Signing for the law firm was lawyer Simeon Marcelo, who is now the solicitor general.

Unfortunately, the hush-hush, rush-rush circumstances of the government's takeover of Piatco leads people to speculate that this is another accommodation of Tan.

A win-win-win solution

COMMENTARY

Sylvia L. Mayuga

bits and pieces of our ancient city's roots—was a priceless experience. It's been decades since I'd wandered to an old trading culture birthed from Manila's riverine umbilical cord and was heartened to find it alive and well on Calle Tabora. "But will this, too, be lost in the drive to reintroduce discipline to Metro Manila?" I wondered wistfully.

A couple of weeks ago, I'd silently thanked Fernando for restoring southbound access to Parañaque via Quirino Avenue. The MMDA had chased off sidewalk/street vendors who had long lorded it over filthy Baclaran in blaring cacophony and hillocks of garbage, with *tong* for corrupt local police and officials. It took the pear vendor of Tabora to show me the baby in the bath water of chaotic commerce holding Manila's streets and sidewalks hostage.

This baby is called culture—habits woven into a life-support system organically evolved in prevailing conditions, Fernando's campaign being only the most recent. Not everyone, buyers or sellers, can afford to meet their needs in malls, equally a cause of heavy traffic as they mushroom in the cracks of land-use plans still being finalized by the MMDA. This is acknowledged both by local government hawkers' permits and mall operators profitably renting out *tiangge*-like stalls to small and medium-scale vendors in their open indoor spaces.

Does the MMDA chair see the baby beyond an apparently hardening, Palace-supported stance on sidewalk/street vendors? There are simply too many people who need to buy and sell cheap in an overpopulated metropolis. Short of issuing visas to new provincial migrants to enter and live

here, Richard Gordon should for instance look beyond mega-tourism promotion for a moment and remind Fernando of the tourism department's earlier campaign to turn Baclaran's Redevelopment Avenue into a walking/shopping street, on condition that it be kept clean and orderly.

The germ of that idea deserves incubation by cultural sensitivity, not front page-dominated forgetfulness. Acknowledging the historical drawing power of the open-air market and developing it carefully on a metropolis-wide scale, the better to discipline and harmonize it with the whole as the Ayalas do in Makati, could benefit both the spirits and pockets of Metro Manila's majority.

But it must begin by delving into the fascinating history of Divisoria and the contemporary Plaza Miranda, Baclaran, Quinta and Central Markets for germinal insight on the street market as an intimate part of our culture. The fun can proceed by identifying *tiangges*, pre- and post-mall era, correlated with commuter routes and pedestrian traffic patterns. Special days for vendors to ply their ancient street trade—Wednesday for Baclaran, Friday for Plaza Miranda, Saturday for Tabora and Ongpin and so on throughout Metro Manila, for instance—with minimal rental and maximum discipline, on historic streets and idle lots public and private could benefit the general public, city coffers and tourism.

This kind of win-win-win formula is just what Metro Manila needs as Christmas approaches and it could bring our struggling economy some pleasant surprises the way it created Singapore's first wealth. Not only is populist competition to mall culture a healthy thing. A compromise is preferable to pouring kerosene on creative artifacts like the Pinoy's version of a gold-embroidered fan circa 2002—its own kind of successful engineering, Mr. Fernando.

Sylvia L. Mayuga is a veteran freelance writer on historical and cultural issues.

A quaint corner of the Orient

(Continued from Tuesday)

GEN. Elwell Otis occupied the old palace in front of the square, a large two-story building with offices and state apartments on the second floor. You entered a spacious vestibule and ascended a wide staircase that branched off at the landing leading to the second floor. An imposing statue of Sebastian el Cano stood guard there.

The hall of audience was over 100-feet long and 50-feet wide, with a beautiful parquet floor. Its lofty walls were lined with long rows of life-size portraits of famous Spaniards. There was a chair of state with the portrait of the Queen Regent and the little King. The room was furnished with a large and elaborately carved table and a dozen or so heavily carved teak chairs bearing the royal arms.

The council chamber overlooked the square, with a few melancholy trees on its center, and on one corner rose a scaffold with the bells of the cathedral. The original campanile shattered by an earthquake stood where it fell. The cathedral was some 300-feet long and 150-feet wide. It had many frescoes and altars, and its center was closed off into a smaller place of worship. At the time, many Spanish soldiers were sleeping on the high altar and side shrines while monkeys climbed over everything.

In the Jesuit monastery, Spanish prisoners stayed in the corridors and in the apartments with paintings of long gone saints, popes and padres gazing down on them. The ecclesiastical buildings were very fine, especially that of the Augustinians, which was next to the archbishop's residence. Its lower story was of dark red marble, while its upper floor, which projected over the pavement, was of wood, richly carved and gilded.

The quarters of the 14th regiment was in Malate, in a private house that was wide, spacious and airy. Since the Burnham plan for a boulevard was not even a mote in Daniel's eye, it was close by the waters of the bay. The second

SENSE AND
SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



floor was supported by brackets, overhanging the first by some four feet and sheltered by a roof with deep eaves. It was placed well back in a yard that was planted to brilliant flowering shrubs.

On the second floor was the living room with a floor of highly polished parquet. A wide staircase led to a large square hall with doors to private quarters on either side.

No glass was used in the buildings, except in show windows of shops. The windows of dwellings were protected by sliding shutters with small squares of shell. By day the sun was kept out by Venetian slats, but when both are open anyone looking up from the street could tell who was home or become acquainted with the domestic arrangements.

Driving back to Intramuros, one went past barracks after barracks all crowded with soldiers "apparently having a very good time." Many of the Spanish barracks were in use but this was still insufficient. Instead, vast buildings of framework, walled with matting and heavily thatched were erected. They were three feet from the ground and composed mainly of vast, open windows. The men were at ease but guns were stacked openly and the sentries were vigilant.

At 11 a.m. leaving Manila for Sangley Point, the waters sparkled under a brilliant sun. The bay was 40 miles from north to south and completely landlocked—perfect for offering refuge for ships. The country was green and beautiful, and far inland rose the mountains, a dark blue mass against a darker sky.

Nearing Cavite, the Spanish ships that Dewey

sank were half submerged in the waters. Cavite was a melancholy place, a scene of utter desolation. The long narrow streets, bordered by the usual two-story houses, were empty and deserted save for some American soldiers and a handful of natives in the public squares. The only sounds were those of American voices and language. A church on the public square stood rifled and desecrated, and among the five sacred edifices of the town, all but one was in the same condition.

Near the Alameda stood the cathedral, empty and wretched. Its altar had been destroyed, the cloisters a mass of ruins with the graves dug up, their contents thrown to the winds. Only the grave of some general resting under a marble slab for 250 years before the eastern portal of the church remained untouched.

Desolation prevailed on the seashore of Alameda. Trees were torn and broken, the bandstand stood in ruins and houses were closed and in decay. A statue to Cristobal Colon stood decapitated.

The main fortifications in Sangley Point were constructed of a porous stone into which cannon balls sank like water into a sponge. On the inner side were the barracks and storehouses, and at one end a somewhat more pretentious bit of fortification but with no strength to withstand modern weapons. The destruction wrought by time seemed greater than that by the guns of Dewey.

Looking seaward, the Spanish flagship sunken and wrecked was the first object that struck the eye. One funnel stood erect, the other half overturned, its destruction so complete it was useless to raise and repair it. The other Spanish ships were in similar condition, and unlike the American fleet that presented an entirely untouched appearance, a gigantic appearance when compared to the greatest of Spain. So the end had come: the sunken wrecks marked the close of the ancient power of Spain.

(From M.M. Shoemaker's "Quaint Corners of the Orient," 1899)

Lost in nothingness

I AM a psychologist, so I know the symptoms of depression. A mood disorder characterized by lack of appetite, lack of interest in anything, a tendency to oversleep and an aversion to light and movement. I myself am suffering from depression and I know what all this means.

The condition makes you feel as if you're slowly dying, inexorably inching toward nothingness, and you don't seem to care. And while the feeling seems to take forever, you neither want it to stop nor to go on. You're just there experiencing nothing.

I have had these episodes since I was a teenager. I wish I could see a pattern to it, because knowing when to expect it would make me better prepared to handle it.

I used to think that it was due to PMS. Even though on a cerebral level, my feminist mind rebelled against the idea of being controlled by hormones and proving a cliché right, it seemed to fit the pattern. But the pattern didn't hold. I would have episodes of depression before, during and even after my cycles had reached their critical periods. There just was not any pattern to those episodes.

Since I am into the science of studying such conditions, I tried looking at mine from a behavioral perspective. What had caused me to be depressed? What associations had I formed between stimuli in the environment and my depressive emotional reaction? By finding out what triggered these episodes, maybe I could extinguish any learned associations.

There were a number of things that I could point to as fairly consistent triggers. My weight was one big factor—literally and figuratively. I have always been fat, and while I have lost weight and, on a fairly detached, intellectual level, I knew I was healthy and decent-looking, my gut still accepted society's teachings regarding weight and beauty. I would never be considered beautiful in our society, no matter how much weight I lost because I would always look fat compared to what society considers as an "ideal" figure.

I examined my condition from the point of view of cognitive psychology. My brain seemed to be functioning like a traitor. Even though I had real friends, a successful career and a wonderful family, my brain persisted in telling me that I was lonely, that I wasn't complete.

I could rationalize that this was because of a Western upbringing that promoted the notion of romantic love and "soulmates." But at a baser level, I yearned for it even if I publicly denounced it as unrealistic and mere propaganda. At a certain level, my brain was torturing me with these conflicting thoughts and signals. My brain was not processing the information correctly.

So while I seemed to have found the answers using the "scientific" discipline of psychology, I still couldn't find the cure. I could rationalize myself to death, but there seemed to be this one place in my brain I couldn't reach, one place where all logic dared not enter.

I decided to go and look at that place using Sigmund Freud's glasses. I decided to look at my id.

For the layperson, the id is that part of our unconscious where all of our basic urges—the ones society tells us to ignore because they're so bad—are kept. This is where our inner child (more accurately, the inner spoiled brat) resides. If our id is not reasonably satisfied, or wants something so badly that it cannot have, it becomes stronger and starts to affect our conscious self. I had to figure out what my id had been deprived of that made it so strong as to cause my conscious self to be depressed.

I have tried to not repress my urges as I've learned that this is harmful. If I feel aggressive, I work out at the gym or play (don't laugh) competitive scrabble. I try my best to find an outlet for my aggressive drive.

But my sexual drive? That's another matter. I don't seem to have an outlet that satisfies my sexual drives. Sure, writing is a creative (and hence a sexual) outlet, but it doesn't seem to be enough for me. My presentations are very creative (just ask my students), but my urges don't seem to go away. So maybe that's it: my id has a lot of unfulfilled sexual urges that are just there, waiting, accumulating, boiling up and probably boiling over. And I do nothing to address it because my conscience won't let me. Which could explain my depression.

I still didn't buy it though. It seemed too easy and pat—and far less anxiety-provoking than it should be if I were truly the root of my problem (Freud taught us that the closer you come to the root of a problem the more threatened and anxious you become).

Maybe it was time to go back to neuropsychology and look at the brain one more time. Maybe my brain was simply not providing me with enough serotonin, the chemical that leads to feelings of satisfaction and pleasure. Maybe the areas housing the pleasure centers were simply not being stimulated enough. Maybe all this is genetic: I could have a malfunctioning gene that I inherited and which is now causing my brain to malfunction. Maybe.

After attempting to apply all that I've learned in psychology, I have several theories and no real cure. The episodes still come, and while I am able to see my way through these episodes, I cannot prevent them. I can minimize the effects by applying what I've learned (for example, exercise boosts energy levels and tells your brain to get off the couch) but I cannot eliminate the darkness, the nothingness that still creeps in. I am better prepared but I am not cured. But at least I understand my sickness (for it is an illness) better which makes it less frightening, less like a monstrous black hole in which I can exercise no control. This is because I'm a psychologist.

And yet I'm having a bad time. What about those people who are completely in the dark?

N. Lopez, 28, does research and teaches psychology in a private university.

THEY SAID

Erasing the perception

"Our urgent responsibility is to erase the perception the department is graft-ridden."
—Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong on the ongoing "cleansing process" in the department

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Danger posed by coal-fired plants

I WISH to thank your paper for covering the dirty energy campaign. It has raised the awareness of many communities which are now weighing proposals to establish coal-powered plants in their areas.

Two news items that came out this week, however, need some clarification. In the report "Napocor dismisses calls to shut down coal power plants" last Aug. 20, the National Power Corp. denies that its 600-MW Calaca coal plant is emitting mercury by citing alleged studies made by the government. Napocor also complains that it is being singled out by Greenpeace. Napocor first attempted to refute the findings of Greenpeace after the INQUIRER blew the lid on the mercury emissions of the Calaca coal plant in August 2001.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources conducted studies even more extensive than those Greenpeace had

undertaken, taking samples from the rivers surrounding the Calaca coal plant, the ash pond, the discharge canal, the condenser units, the coal plant's coastline, the outfall and the ash pond's effluents. All of the samples taken and tested by the DENR revealed the insidious presence of mercury in amounts very much higher than those detected by Greenpeace. DENR documents citing Napocor sources also said that the coal used by the Calaca coal plant contained alarming amounts of mercury.

Napocor should also not feel too lonely in its pollution-mired predicament. As news reports have repeatedly shown, the coal plants of Masinloc, Zambales, Sulal, Pangasinan and Mauban, Quezon have all been shown to be emitting neurotoxins and carcinogens to the environment. Legislators in both houses of Congress have demanded the closure of coal plants operated both

by IPPs and Napocor.

Aside from its continued refusal to pay the P1.5 billion realty taxes it owes the Quezon provincial government, the Mauban coal plant has also been found to be emitting the largest amount of heavy metals among all the coal plants. Greenpeace continues to challenge the Mauban coal plant company to disclose to authorities the heavy metal content of the coal that it uses. The provincial government of Quezon has also made a similar demand to QPL. QPL has not still responded to this challenge.

QPL representatives have attempted to refute the findings of Greenpeace by showing the results of tests it conducted in some marine water samples. This is an attempt to deliberately confuse the public. Greenpeace tests were made on fly ash from QPL's coal plant, not water.

Unless QPL has become a net importer of fly ash from other



provinces, the claim by QPL that the ash taken by Greenpeace from the Mauban coal plant is from Napocor's Calaca power plant is patently ridiculous.

We support the call of Sen. Loren Legarda and Rep. Miguel Zubiri to begin phasing out all operating coal plants in the country, whether these are owned by Napocor or operated by IPPs. It is high time the government developed the country's massive clean, renewable energy resources. We must choose positive energy now.

—RED CONSTANTINO,
climate and energy campaigner,
Greenpeace Southeast Asia,
Unit 326, Eagle Court
Condominium, 26 Matalino St.,
Diliman, Quezon City

DOH pushing import of cheap medicines

THIS is in reference to the column of Ramon Tulfo last Aug. 4, titled "The clueless secretary of health."

The allegation that the Department of Health and the Bureau of Food and Drugs are preventing the importation by the government of quality but affordable medicines from India in large quantities has no factual basis. In fact, it was the DOH in cooperation with the Department of Trade and Industry that pushed for this program, and in so doing has caused the Pharmaceuticals Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP), an association of multinational pharmaceutical companies, to file for a temporary restraining order against

the importation of such medicines. The case is still pending at the Makati regional trial court.

Furthermore, AO 85 was issued by the health secretary allowing the importation of quality affordable medicines from India and other countries like China and Pakistan. Another administrative order has been prepared to allow private groups to engage in similar importations. However, the new AO cannot be issued because of the pending case against BFAD-DOH and PITC.

Allowing private groups to import medicines will definitely increase the quantity and avail-

ability of quality affordable branded medicines. Please note that the products being imported are not in any way competing with products being produced by Filipino drug manufacturers since all of the products being imported are branded multinational preparations that are more expensive than similar products marketed by the same company in the Philippines. Certificates of Product Registration and reports of analysis of the PITC-imported products are released in less than 14 working days.

The BFAD is currently undergoing reengineering and people are

being reassigned to maximize their potentials and improve their morale. We hope to minimize, if not totally eradicate, corruption. Systems have been reviewed and revised to eliminate red tape.

If only Tulfo could find time to talk to us, maybe he could make more constructive suggestions on how to improve our health care delivery systems. After all, we are all Filipinos with the same vision and mission for a healthy Filipino nation.

—WILLIAM D. TORRES, Ph.D.,
director, Bureau of
Food and Drugs, Filinvest
Corporate City, Alabang,
Muntinlupa City

NAD should sue instead of mounting ad campaign

THIS has reference to the paid advertisement of the National Alliance for Democracy (NAD) last Aug. 21, which contained malicious allegations against me and Bayan Muna, of which I am president.

The paid advertisement insinuates that I had knowledge about the Plaza Miranda bombing on Aug. 21, 1971 and that I had once threatened to come out with evidence against Jose Ma. Sison, when he allegedly accused me of masterminding the purges against suspected infiltrators in the communist party during the late 1980s when I was still in the underground.

The alleged exchange of accusations and threats never took place. I am not hiding information. I was not involved in the Plaza Miranda bombing and in the "purge" of the 1980s. In fact, I have been acquitted by the regional trial court of Quezon City of the charges that had to do with the purge, and court records showed that I had even helped put a stop to it.

This is not the first time that NAD has come out with malicious paid advertisements. Considering that most of these were

published in national dailies, it is clear that influential and well-funded groups are behind NAD, otherwise it cannot sustain its expensive black propaganda campaign against Bayan Muna.

It is evident that all these vicious accusations were fabricated and part of the dirty tricks of NAD and the military to discredit me and cripple Bayan Muna in future elections by linking it to the CPP-NPA and the alleged atrocities attributed to it.

We denounce NAD and the people hiding behind it who have been resorting to unsigned paid advertisements to malign Bayan Muna and its leaders. Curiously, these paid advertisements never carried the names of their leaders, their addresses and contact numbers. I challenge the nameless leaders behind NAD to come out in the open and file charges against me or any of my colleagues in Bayan Muna so that their so-called "evidence" can be examined under the searing light of truth and justice.

—REP. SATUR OCAMPO,
president, Bayan Muna Party List,
Rm. 616, South Wing, House of
Representatives, Batasan
Complex, Quezon City

Dirty tactic of political foe

THIS has reference to a news item last Aug. 15 by Christian Esguerra, implicating me and my husband, Gov. Raul R. Lee in the alleged abduction and slaying of Clarissa Dioneda Martin.

For Leovic Dioneda, a losing mayoralty candidate in Sorsogon City, to issue such a statement is not at all surprising, as he would grab every opportunity to malign my family. What concerns me, however, is the negative image he tries so hard to paint of the political leadership of Sorsogon City even as my administration is doing its best to build a progressive city out of the merger of Sorsogon, a first-class municipality with Bacon a fourth-class municipality.

Lest your readers get the im-

pression that Sorsogon City's elected leaders are capable of violence, allow me to state that in the 14 months Sorsogon has functioned as a component city, we have achieved stability in governance and unity among the residents.

Sorsogon is a peaceful city. It is only Dioneda who continues to sow political dissension by resorting to rumor-mongering, mudslinging, coercion and just about every dirty political tactic he mastered during the nine years that he controlled the town of Bacon.

It is unfortunate that he had to use the tragic death of a 14-year-old to promote this end and advance his perverted political causes.

—SALLY A. LEE, mayor,
Sorsogon City

Making farmers landless again

THE PHILIPPINE Peasant Institute strongly objects to President Macapagal-Arroyo's endorsement of the farmland-as-collateral bill.

The President announced her plan to hasten the passage of the bill during her State of the Nation Address, but failed to clarify why. She did not explain the rationale behind the conveyance of collateral value on the emancipation patents (EPs) and certificate of land ownership awards (CLOAs) of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).

She must realize that the bill has dangerous implications on the lives of ARBs. Presumably, the government aims to provide support services, particularly credit, to small farmers using the farmland-as-collateral approach. But this approach is questionable because the small farmers are impoverished and mostly bankrupt. They will be unable to pay their loans from financial institutions and only see their farmlands foreclosed. Thus, instead of assisting the small farmers, the government will only be fostering

widespread bankruptcy and massive foreclosure of farmlands.

In other words, the bill will encourage the reconsolidation of agricultural lands and bring back landlessness. By effectively lifting the transferability clause under Section 27 of Republic Act No. 6657 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform, the tenurial rights of ARBs will be undermined, paving the way for the former landowners to reacquire their lands.

This brings to the fore the hypocrisy of the government's "war" on poverty. Instead of helping the impoverished ARBs, the government is neglecting to provide support services. It is also unwittingly pushing for the virtual legitimization of the illegal acts of some traders and informal lenders.

—EUGENE TECSON,
Land Tenure Center, Philippine
Peasant Institute, Rm. 319,
Philippine Social Science Center
Bldg., Commonwealth Ave.,
Diliman, Quezon City

Bunye's degrading offer

HERE comes Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye with an offer that any dedicated revolutionary and advocate of social change would refuse anytime.

He said that Malacañang would "probably" remove Sanlakas from its list of communist organizations if it would make a request similar to Akbayan's pathetic appeal to be "de-listed."

However, with the Macapagal administration fumbling in its "categories" as it classifies every democratic dissent as "communist," we are compelled to make a clarification.

Sanlakas has already said that it is not a communist organization but a coalition of various sectoral groups with different political ideologies. As for Bukluran ng Mangagawang Pilipino, which makes up the bulk of Sanlakas, we proudly declare that our ideals are based on a thorough critique of society and, hence, our call for radical social transformation, for an overhaul of the rotten political and economic system.

Capitalism is wage slavery. Under present conditions, workers are not regarded as a "primary economic force" as dictated by the 1987 Constitution. We are viewed as mere commodities whose price, i.e. wage, is reduced to the

barest minimum in order to increase capitalist profit.

Our everyday existence proves that our "right to live decently" is subordinated to the "right of private property" to the privilege of the propertied to accumulate wealth. Thus, to strive for social change and meaningful reforms is but just and reasonable. For it is truly detestable if workers would simply accept injustice as their destiny.

However, we doubt that this "clarification" would be enough to put some sense into the beleaguered Macapagal administration. Malacañang is on a rampage and GMA is intolerant of legitimate dissent against her anti-poor and pro-globalization policies. She has even declared war against "those who terrorize factories," with an obvious slant against militant unionism.

This "offer" from Bunye to militant groups is but part of Malacañang's strong-arm tactics as it tries to build a "strong republic." Yet, even if the militant workers' movement ends, this offer is not only irritating but degrading. We refuse it politely.

—VICTOR BRIZ,
president, Bukluran ng
Mangagawang Pilipino, 47
Masikap St., Barangay Pinyahan,
Diliman, Quezon City



10th National Public Relations Congress

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WRAP UP

Closing Remarks

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Islamic, European nations step up bid to avert US war plan

CAIRO, Egypt—Muslim and European states kept up pressure on Washington on Thursday to avert an attack on Iraq but US Vice President Dick Cheney brushed aside their concerns and hammered home the case for preemptive action.

Islamic countries said an attack, which Washington says is justified by President Saddam Hussein's development of weapons of mass destruction and links with terrorism, could unleash fresh turmoil by widening a gulf between Muslims and the West. European countries put the emphasis on resuming UN weapons inspections in Iraq ordered after the 1991 Gulf War, but, in a subtle shift led by Belgium, they reminded Iraq to abide by UN resolutions or risk the consequences.

Some analysts say US allies in Europe, which have long expressed concerns over possible US action, may now be turning to the United Nations to get political cover for eventually falling in behind an American war on Iraq.

French President Jacques Chirac warned strongly against a US go-it-alone attack, but sources close to him said concerns that Baghdad might build weapons of mass destruction meant the UN Security Council might ultimately agree to use force.

Iraq joined the debate Thursday by saying there was no point in allowing UN weapons inspectors back into the country, because an "insane, criminal" US administration was determined to attack and oust Saddam Hussein.

Cheney, speaking to Korean War Veterans in San Antonio, Texas, re-

peated charges from Monday that the Iraqi leader posed a "mortal danger" to the United States.

"The elected leaders of the country have a responsibility to consider all available options and we are doing so," he said. "We must not simply look away, hope for the best and leave the matter for some future administration to resolve." Cheney said weapons inspections, interrupted four years ago, could not guarantee Iraqi compliance with UN disarmament resolutions.

A US official said Wednesday Washington would seek "regime change" whether or not inspections were resumed, which Iraq has anyway said it will not accept.

While Saddam sent ministers to Damascus, Beirut and Beijing seeking support, ordinary Iraqis went about business as usual, seeming to accept whatever comes with fatalistic calm.

"We are not scared any more by American bombs," said one Baghdad shopkeeper. "If they start bombing, let them do so." The Iraqi opposition will hold a conference in Europe in a month to elect a government-in-exile backed by the United States, opposition sources told Reuters.

Washington says Iraq poses a threat to world stability because it is trying to acquire weapons of mass de-

struction in violation of UN resolutions imposed after the Gulf War.

Iraq says it has dismantled all such programs and wants an end to punitive UN sanctions.

It has refused to allow UN weapons inspectors, whom it brands spies, into the country since a US-British bombing campaign in December 1998 after inspectors were evacuated following charges that Saddam had interfered with their work.

Pakistani leader Pervez Musharraf, a vital US ally in its war on terror, said Washington would not have the broad backing Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld forecast this week if it launched a strike against Baghdad.

"This would have very negative repercussions around the Islamic world," Musharraf told BBC Radio.

Indonesia's biggest mainstream Muslim organization, the 40-million strong Nahdlatul Ulama, also said it strongly opposed any US attack.

Rumsfeld's assertion that a US strike would win international support has already triggered negative reactions from Saudi Arabia and Turkey, two strategically important nations should US President George Bush take on Baghdad.

In Europe, where NATO allies have often said they opposed attacking Iraq, Belgium led a subtle shift of tone Thursday, putting the onus on Iraq to prove it was sticking to UN resolutions if it wanted to avert a strike.

Reuters

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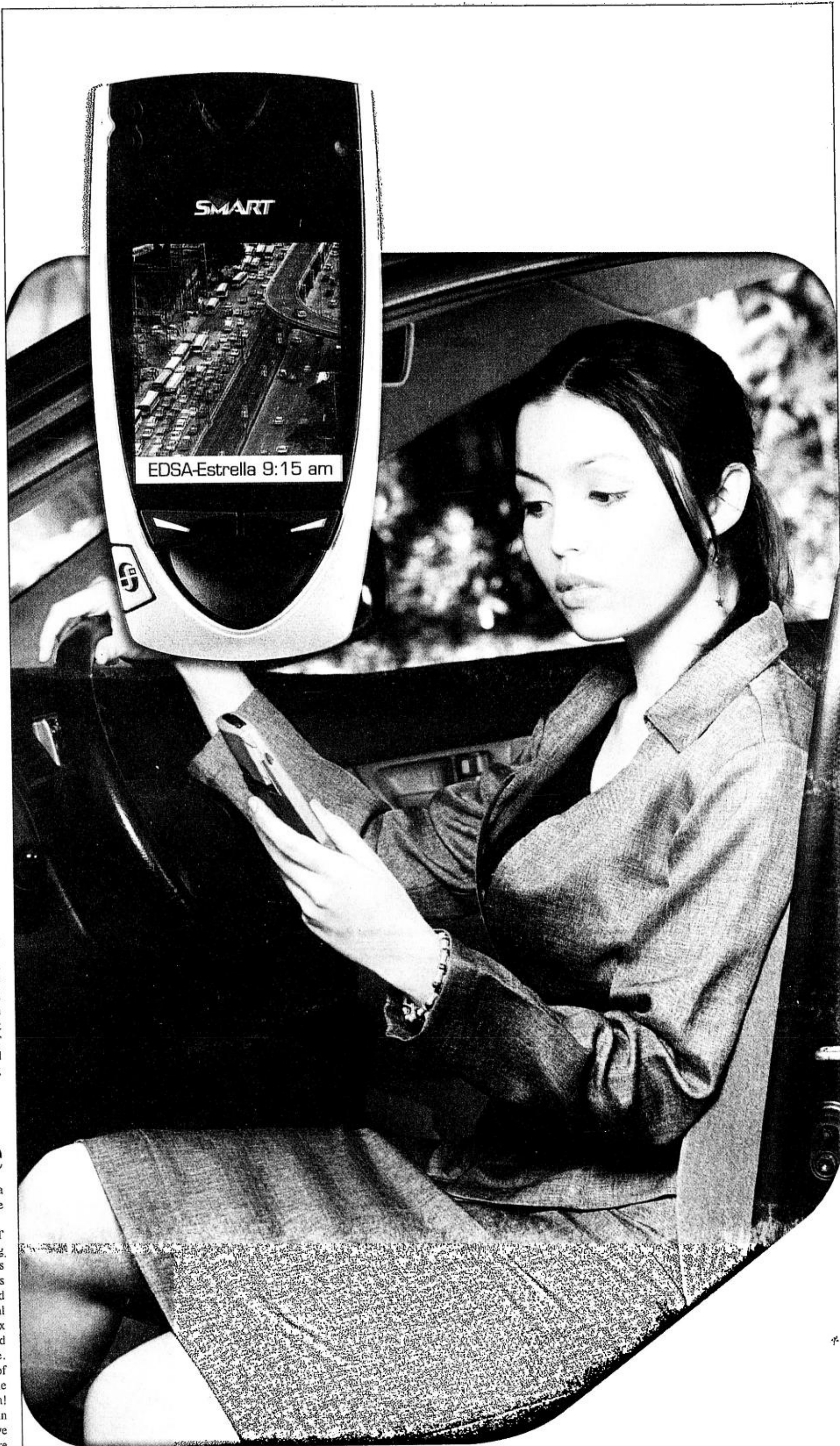
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End suicide bombings, urges Palestinian leader



A PALESTINIAN girl looks at the Israeli tanks and troops as they sweep the Palestinian fields at Sheikh Ijleen village near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim in the Gaza Strip August 29.

GETTY IMAGES

JERUSALEM—The Palestinian interior minister said in an interview published on Friday that militants must halt suicide bombings against Israelis or else face "isolation" by Palestinian society.

"Stop the suicide bombings, stop the murders for no reason," Abdel Razzak al-Yahya said in remark to an Israeli newspaper published a day after Israeli troops killed four members of a Palestinian family in Gaza, drawing Hamas vows of retaliation.

The Israeli attack, which prompted Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer to express regret and order an army investigation, put new strains on a nearly two-week-old security deal meant to lay the groundwork for a ceasefire.

It also dealt a fresh blow to efforts by Yahya, named interior minister in June as part of a series of reforms demanded by Washington, to convince militants groups that suicide attacks hurt the Palestinian nationalist cause.

Raising the specter of conflict on a second front, Israel demanded Syria and Lebanon restrain Hizbollah guerrillas or face retaliation after an attack on the northern border on Thursday that wounded three soldiers and drew Israeli air strikes.

Israeli security sources said Ben-Eliezer told visiting US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State David Satterfield in talks late on Thursday that Israel would not remain idle if Hizbollah artillery and missile fire continued.

In an interview with the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper before the Gaza killings, Yahya called on militants to "return to the legitimate struggle against the occupation, without violence."

"Suicide attacks are contrary to the Palestinian tradition, are against international law and harm the Palestinian people," he was quoted as saying. "It is not necessary to respond or take revenge for every act. Both sides must act with restraint."

Yahya acknowledged his failure to secure agreement for an end to attacks in meetings earlier this month in Gaza, though he said in each faction he had "found people willing to hear these ideas."

But he added: "If the suicide

attacks continue, these factions will find themselves isolated in Palestinian society." Despite Yahya's warning, recent opinion polls have shown that a majority of Palestinians approve of suicide bombings on Israelis in the 23-month-old Palestinian uprising against occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat called the Israeli army's deadly strike on Thursday in the Gaza Strip coastal village of Sheikh Ijleen a "deliberate crime" aimed at sabotaging peace efforts.

The militant group Hamas, which has killed scores of Israelis in a wave of suicide attacks, vowed to avenge the deaths.

Reuters

Japan PM to make historic, tension-easing trip to N. Korea

TOKYO—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi will travel to North Korea in September for a visit that analysts said would mark a big step forward in improving ties and contribute to the easing of tensions in the region.

Koizumi, who will be the first Japanese prime minister to visit the isolated communist state,

said on Friday he would meet North Korean leader Kim Jong-il on September 17.

"Through direct talks, I hope that we will be able to find some sort of opportunity to resolve various problems between our two nations," he said. "Specifically, I want to seek the possibility of resumption of talks towards normalization."

North Korea and Japan have no diplomatic ties and relations between the two Asian neighbors have been rocky for years, haunted by bitter historical memories.

Talks on establishing ties have been stalled for two years over a host of issues, including Pyongyang's demand for an apology for Japan's colonization of Ko-

rea and Tokyo's concern about missing Japanese it says were kidnapped by the North.

For Koizumi, whose popularity has been flagging at home, agreement from the North for a visit is a major diplomatic coup.

Analysts also said a successful trip would enhance his stature in the region at a time when Tokyo

is worried about losing influence to China, one of North Korea's few friends.

Koizumi told reporters he had the strong support for the visit from US President George W. Bush, who has branded North Korea part of an "axis of evil." He said South Korean President Kim Dae-jung also backed the trip.

Reuters

German cops link Moroccan to 9/11 attacks

KARLSRUHE, Germany—German authorities said Thursday they had charged a Moroccan man with complicity in the September 11 attacks, only the second person to be indicted worldwide, and had evidence the suicide-hijackings were planned almost two years in advance.

Federal prosecutor Kay Nehm said Mounir El Motassadeq was accused of belonging to a terrorist organization and of at least 3,116 counts of assisting in murder.

Motassadeq is the first person to be charged over the attacks in Europe and the second after Zacarias Moussaoui, who is due to face court in the United States in January following his arrest in August 2001 on immigration violations.

Speaking at a press conference, Nehm said Motassadeq had managed a bank account for Marwan Al-Shehhi, one of the hijackers, and explained how shehhi had boasted of attacking the United States to a Hamburg librarian.

"There will be thousands of dead. You will think of me," Shehhi told the librarian in April or May of 2000, according to Nehm.

New York's World Trade Center was mentioned in the conversation, he added. Investigators said shortly after the attacks that perhaps years of planning had gone into them.

AFP

Kennedy relative draws 20 for murder

NORWALK, Conn. — Kennedy family relative Michael Skakel was sentenced on Thursday to 20 years to life in prison for killing his next-door neighbor when they were both teenagers, bringing to a close a case that lay unsolved for more than a quarter of a century.

The nephew of Ethel Kennedy, widow of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, Skakel, now 41 and convicted in June of murdering 15-year-old Martha Moxley in 1975, wept loudly as he pleaded for leniency before Superior Court Judge John Kavenewsky.

"I'm innocent as charged," he said, crying so hard and so loudly at points during his 10-minute address that his words were difficult to understand.

Gesturing to the Moxley family, he said: "I would love to tell them I did this so they can rest, but I can't do this. I cannot bear false witness."

In handing down the sentence, the judge called Moxley's murder "not only violent but especially vicious."

"The last 25 years or so, this defendant has been living a lie about his guilt," he said. "This defendant has accepted no responsibility and no remorse to this day."

Moxley's body was found on the lawn of her parents' home in the affluent town of Greenwich, Connecticut, next door to the Skakel home, bludgeoned with a golf club that investigators matched to a set belonging to Skakel's late mother.

Reuters



BIZARRE WAIT

Afghan women wait with their children to be seen by a doctor in the Indira Ghandi Hospital for Children August 29 in Kabul, Afghanistan. The hospital has 300 beds, but is usually filled to double capacity with only 118 doctors in attendance to administer medical care.

GETTY IMAGES

Anti-terror campaign hasn't stopped al-Qaida, says UN report

UNITED NATIONS—The global campaign against terrorism has pushed al-Qaida underground but hasn't stopped the flow of money and fresh recruits to carry out new terrorist attacks, a UN draft report says.

Nearly a year after al-Qaida supporters attacked the United States on Sept. 11, the terrorist network has established cells in at least 40

countries and is well entrenched in Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, and many parts of Asia, according to Thursday's report.

It has developed operational links with militant Islamic groups in these areas, gained new recruits, and found new ways to channel millions of dollars and a wide variety of weapons to its supporters, it said.

"Al-Qaida, despite the success-

ful inroads made against it over recent months is, by all accounts 'alive and well' and poised to strike again how, when and where it chooses," the report said.

The draft report was prepared by an expert group authorized by the UN Security Council to monitor UN sanctions.

Under a council resolution adopted unanimously in January,

all nations are required to freeze the finances and impose arms embargoes and travel bans on individuals and groups associated with Osama bin Laden, al-Qaida, and the Taliban—wherever they are in the world.

A total of 234 individuals and groups are currently on the UN list of those whose assets should be frozen, but the report criti-

cizes many countries for a failure to add suspected al-Qaida members, and some European countries for hesitating to freeze assets. It cited 43 individuals who should be on the list, but aren't.

The United States and Italy said Thursday they want 11 other individuals and 14 organizations with alleged ties to al-Qaida put on the list.

AP



SHARPENING JAPAN'S READINESS

The Japan Ground Self-Defense Force conducts a comprehensive power exercise August 29, in Shizuoka, Japan.

GETTY IMAGES

Eunuch barred from woman's job

BHOPAL, India—The first eunuch to win a top political office in India was forced to give up the job—reserved for women under an affirmative-action scheme—after a court ruled that a eunuch could not be considered female, officials said Friday.

Kamla Jaan, who like most eunuchs dresses as a woman, shocked the nation's political establishment when she was elected mayor of a town in central India three years ago.

Eunuchs are traditionally at the bottom of

the India's class-conscious society, living on tips received for dancing at weddings, blessing newborn babies and taking part in other ceremonies. Most of the country's tens of thousands of eunuchs are castrated as babies, though a few are born without male genitalia.

Jaan ran as an independent and was the surprise choice of voters who said they were disgusted with corruption among established parties.

AP

Princess Diana far from forgotten

LONDON—It has been five years since Princess Diana, the queen of Britons' hearts, died in a brutal accident in a Paris road tunnel.

But the legacy of change her death forced onto Britain's until now aloof royal family, and a continuing media obsession with her, her handsome prince sons, her ex-husband's lover and revelations by her staff, ensure she is far from forgotten.

Just as September 11, 2001 is a date permanently branded on the memories of people the world over, so August 31, 1997 is one Britons define as the most memorable in British history, according to a poll released last week.

And while this year's anniversary has no official ceremonies to mark it, Diana's former staff and friends are—as so often before—making sure it does not pass unnoticed.

The latest revelations about a princess who dominated tabloid headlines in life and continues to do so in death come in a tell-all book by a former bodyguard Ken Wharfe.

His book, "Diana: Closely Guarded Secret" was well timed to hit the shops this week and provide Diana-hungry newspaper editors with titillating tales of the time the princess allowed Wharfe to see her naked, or another time when she leapt off a balcony to escape the prying eyes of paparazzi photographers.

Wharfe's book is reported to have made the young princes William and Harry "incandescent" with rage.

But since Wharfe is only the latest in a string of former Diana staff to spill her private details into the public arena, intrusion into their family's affairs is something the boys are getting used to.

Reuters



FLOWERS left at the gate of Kensington Palace in London to commemorate the 5th anniversary, Aug. 31, of the death of Princess Diana.

AP

Special PROJECT



ALAY~LAKAD

HAKBANG MAMAMAYAN! KINABUKASAN NG KABATAAN...

Aries Espinosa, Editor

Lita Pascual, Account Manager

MESSAGES



I EXTEND my cordial greetings to the organizers, sponsors and participants of the Annual Alay Lakad.

The partnership of Alay Lakad Foundation with various NGOs and People's Organizations in uplifting the lives of the youth is heartening. Indeed, your efforts to impart skills and provide livelihood opportunities to the Filipino youth will go a long way in developing their self-confidence, discipline and self-respect. With your help, many of our youths will be empowered and will be able to aspire for a much brighter future.

The Alay Lakad is an auspicious way of starting your numerous development programs aimed at providing livelihood opportunities for the youth especially those who are out-of-school. While training them to become entrepreneurs, you mold them to become productive and dynamic participants in national development. Indeed, your endeavor complements our government's programs for children and support our poverty alleviation agenda. I therefore wish the success of this undertaking and may you derive inspiration from this event to undertake further projects with greater zeal and resolve.

I hope that you will not cease your partnership with the Administration to uplift the lives of Filipino youth.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

President
Republic of the Philippines

MY WARMEST greetings to the participants to the Alay Lakad to be held on September 1. I join the Alay Lakad Foundation, Inc. on its 30th Anniversary of walking and helping.

For thirty years now, the Alay Lakad Foundation, a consortium of various government agencies, civic groups, business organizations and responsible individuals committed to the development of the youth, has been conducting this annual walkathon nationwide. The idea is for every civic-minded citizen in every city and municipality to join a mass hike from two to ten kilometers along prescribed routes. Volunteer would derive more from it than healthy exercise as this walk-for-a-cause event raises public consciousness about the plight of millions of Filipino youth who cannot stay in school and increase public support for various projects for out-of-school youth.

Commendable indeed is your commitment to help people and touch other's lives through your community projects and programs such as candle making, pedicab, micro enterprises, ornamental plant propagation, agriculture, entrepreneurial efforts and educational assistance to poor but deserving youths.

I exhort the participants to persevere in their selfless pursuit that will redound to nation building.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

TEOFISTO GUINGONA JR.
Vice President
Republic of the Philippines

WARMEST greetings to the organizers of this year's Alay Lakad 2002. Those of us at the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) congratulate you on your efforts and wish you the best of luck for this year's activity.

Conceived as a fund-raising campaign, the Alay Lakad saw members of the public, private agencies, and the government coming together to participate in a walk through a predetermined route for the cause of the youth development. With sponsor donating amount for every kilometer covered by a hiker, funds were raised for various youth-oriented activities.

Thirty years later, the Alay Lakad persists in its efforts to provide service to disadvantaged out-of-school Filipino youth by raising funds and generating interest in the cause of the sector.

I would like to invite everyone this Sunday, Sept. 1 to join and participate in making this most worthwhile of efforts a success. Come forward and be counted. Make your concern for poor and underprivileged Filipinos be felt. Together we can make our voices heard, and in the process aid in transforming young people's lives for the better.

Mabuhay and using mga kabataan! Mabuhay ang sambayanang Pilipino.

CORAZON JULIANO-SOLIMAN

Secretary
Department of Social Welfare and Development

ON THIS momentous and significant milestone in the history of the Alay Lakad Foundation, let me take this opportunity to thank and pay tribute to the founder of Alay Lakad, Dr. Estefania Aldaba-Lim and to the distinguished presidents who came after her, all former secretaries of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the late Nathaniel Tablante, Atty. Sylvia Montes, Dr. Mamita Parto de Tavera, Corazon Alma de Leon and Lina Laigo. Indeed, the more than 46,000 out-of-school youth beneficiaries who were helped by the Foundation nationwide are eternally grateful for the assistance you have given to them.

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of Alay Lakad, it is most appropriate that one of the most active and most prestigious civic organizations, the Rotary International, shall be the one to lead this annual tradition. Allow me to congratulate Governor Rosie Go of District 3810 and Governor Romy Cruz of Rotary District 3830 for their exemplary leadership and commendable efforts towards making this year's Alay Lakad a very successful one. I would also like to recognize the invaluable support we have received from the three noteworthy civic groups, namely: the Kiwanis, the Philippine Jaycees and the Lions International; as well as the working committee members from both the government and private sectors who have worked hard and who have contributed their time and resources to make this year's celebration truly successful.

Lastly, to the Filipino youth, I would like to assure them of Alay Lakad Foundation's continued service to the out-of-school youth as the foundation's core mission and vision are all for their benefit. We shall persevere in our undertakings that will aid this less privileged sector of our society. This is our humble contribution to nation building and this we shall do progressively in the many years to come.

Mabuhay ang Kabataan Pilipino.

FRANK A. EVARISTO

President
Alay Lakad Foundation

Alay Lakad celebrates 30th Anniversary

Sunday, Sept. 1 at Quirino Grandstand, Luneta

YEAR 2002 marks the 30th year of Alay Lakad, the Philippine tradition of "walk offering" for a worthy cause.

This activity started in 1972 by the then Ministry of Social Services and Development with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of the Philippines and National Media Production Center, and other civic groups.

Now the annual Alay Lakad has become the signature fund-raising strategy of the Alay Lakad Foundation to be able to finance its socio-economic projects for the out-of-school youth.

This year's theme is "Hakbang Mamamayan! Kinabukasan ng Kabataan..." is especially significant for Alay Lakad since it is celebrating its 30th anniversary of walking and helping and giving to the out-of-school youths.

Alay Lakad 2002 reels of September 1st with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Teofisto Guingona to lead the annual walk-for-a-cause with Frank Evaristo as Alay Lakad Foundation Inc. (ALFI) President.

For 30 years of annual walking, the activity is perhaps one, if not the best, example in the country of fruitful collaboration between public and private entities for a worthy cause. Alay Lakad has always been a showcase for such teamwork.

Leadership

Leadership in Alay Lakad is rotated among the country's most prestigious groups, such as Rotary, Kiwanis, Jaycees and Lions.

This year's host civic organization is the Rotary International Districts 3810 and 3830 under district governors Rosie Go and Romy Cruz with Gen. Francisco Atayde (ret.) and Gregorio Navarro as co-chairpersons of the National Coordinating Committee for Walk 2002. In the Metro Manila Walk Group composition, the group marshal is Major Dennis Roman D. Isleta (PA) and the controller, Major Agane C. Adriatico (PA).

Rotary is ably supported in this endeavor by the three other major civic organizations in the country, namely: the Philippine Jaycees headed by national president Mabel Villarica-Mamba



FROM left are Alay Lakad beneficiary Sheila Mae Kidang and Maj. Adriatico, Rotary District governors; 3810 and 3830 Romy Cruz and Rosie Go; Frank Evaristo, Alay Lakad President; Celia Yangco, Assistant Secretary, DSWD and NBN TV host Gani Oro

as the overall co-chair of the Walk, the Lions Club International under district governor Robert Roque Jr. and the Kiwanis International headed by governor Salvador Lachica Jr.

From the government sector: Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, AFP Chief Gen. Roy Cimatu, Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, among others have been in the forefront to insure the successful conduct of this year's walk.

Frank A. Evaristo, president of the board of trustees of the foundation, supervises the whole activity and the general operation of the foundation.

To raise more funds Rotary International will issue Alay Lakad commemorative mailing envelopes and commemorative car plates in coordination with the Philippine Postal Corporation and Land Transportation Office, respectively, to be distributed among members and allies of Alay Lakad. This will be a year-round project to be able to help more OSYs.

Alay Lakad objectives

The Annual Alay Lakad Para sa Kabataan Day has a two-fold objective—first, to increase public consciousness on the plight of the increasing number of out-of-

school youths in a country where the right to be educated and to stay in school is a basic and primary right, and second, to raise funds for the various programs and projects of the Foundation for the benefit of the out-of-school youths.

The funds generated from this annual event are then allocated to run the livelihood projects, training and scholarship programs for the OSY, as well as for the operation and maintenance of its central office.

OSYs, the target beneficiaries of Alay Lakad

The out-of-school youth is a sub-sector of the larger Youth sector. Out-of-school youths are those with ages 15-24 who are neither studying nor working, not a college degree holder and with no source of gainful and formal employment. The out-of-school youth is one sub-sector which has been much neglected, thus making them part of the disadvantaged sector.

The sad fact is of the 100 students who enter Grade 1, only 65 finish elementary school. If they all enter first year high school, only 47 of them will eventually finish their secondary education. This would mean that by age 15, 50 percent of the youth are likely to be out of school.

Alay Lakad Projects

The following are some of the most successful projects funded by the Alay Lakad Foundation.

1. Candle-making in Cainta, Rizal for 10 OSYs.
2. T-shirt printing in Quezon City under the supervision of Gising Bayan Foundation for 10 OSYs.
3. Hog fattening in Barangays Sugad and Ubaliw in Polangui, Albay for 20 OSYs.
4. Mini-carinderia in Navotas for two OSY beneficiaries.

5. Pedicab project given to a group who received P5,000 each and all of them have already paid the whole amount.

6. Ornamental plant propagation to OSY group who were given P25,000 to propagate ornamental plants for selling in the market. The group has already paid the total amount loaned to them.

The Foundation takes pride in having reached out to 46,408 OSY beneficiaries through 592 projects in the 15 regions of the country involving the amount of P7 million.

Qualifications for OSY for loans or scholarships from ALFI

There are certain required qualifications for aspiring beneficiaries to ALFI projects:

1. Must be out-of-school youth, single from ages 14 to 24.
2. Must belong to low-income family (defined by NEDA).
3. Must possess basic knowledge and skills to undertake and manage income-generating projects.
4. Must be willing and interested to undertake the project and must possess the right attitudes and work habits.
5. Must work under the guidance and supervision of Alay Lakad Foundation.
6. They must preferably be endorsed by a non-government organization, a national or local government unit or agency, or a responsible group who will provide technical assistance and shoulder administrative responsibilities whenever necessary.

Through Alay Lakad, government and non-government organizations and the private sector join hands to generate resources that would enable the needy out-of-school-youth to engage in livelihood and other development projects, thus giving them the opportunity to fully realize their potentials and become self-sufficient and responsible citizens.

Much of Alay Lakad's success can be attributed to the novel idea behind it, an idea that is unique, practical and conceived out of humanitarian considerations. Today, Alay Lakad is synonymous with organizing mass hike out in order to raise funds for a worthy cause.

Alay Lakad believes that strengthening the capability of the youth shall subsequently improve the quality of life of the Filipino people in general.

Everyone is invited to join the Alay Lakad Day this coming Sunday, September 1, 2002 at the Quirino Grandstand, 6 o'clock in the morning because when you become part of the walking, you will also be a part of helping the less fortunate youths of the land, the out-of-school youth.

Donations will be accepted on Alay Lakad Day itself, at the Quirino Grandstand. For inquiries and other details, call the ALFI national office at 5231539 or 5226134.



BATANGAS Chapter Individual Livelihood program last May 8, 2001

ALAY LAKAD FOUNDATION, INC.

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President, Republic of the Philippines
And Chairperson,
ALFI Council of Advisers

HONORARY VICE CHAIRPERSON

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WALK GROUP COMPOSITION

Alay Lakad 2002
(01 September 2002 - Sunday)

WG COMPOSITION

ASSEMBLY TIME

1. All schools, government offices and civic organizations based in Pasay City, Parañaque City, Las Piñas City, Muntinlupa City, Buendia/World Trade Center/0500H

2. All schools, government offices and civic organizations based in Caloocan City, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela C.M. Rector cor

R. Regente/0445H

3. All schools, government offices and civic organizations based in Manila, South of Pasig River Nagtahan Bridge/0500H

4. All schools, government offices and civic organizations based in Quezon City, Marikina City España/Mabuhay Rotonda/0500H

5. DND, GHQ, AFPWSSUs, CCP, PSBA, TIP-QC, NCBA G H Q Grandstand, Camp Aguinaldo/0400H

6. PA, PAF and Philippine Navy/ Marines Contingents, FEATI, PATTS, PSCA, UPHR, ADMW PICC Complex/ 0600H

7. All schools, government offices and civic organizations based in Makati City, Pateros, Taguig Buendia cor Ayala Ave (Makati City) 0530H

8. All schools, government offices and civic organizations based in Mandaluyong City, San Juan, Pasig City Sta. Ana Church/ 0515H

9. All schools, government offices and civic organizations based in Manila, North of Pasig River Bustillos Church/ 0600H

10. Rotary, Jaycees, Lions, Kiwanis, GSP, Knights of Columbus, NYC, DPWH, IFCCII, NCPW Group PICC Complex/ 0500H

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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

2 militants appeal rebellion charges

DAVAO CITY—Militant leaders Joel Virador and Alvin Luque of Bayan Muna have asked the City Prosecutors Office on Wednesday to dismiss the rebellion charges filed against them by a military officer last July.

Virador and Luque reasoned out that the accusations against them by Capt. Ramon Torres of the 73rd Infantry Battalion and militiamen belonging to the Army unit were based on hearsay and should not be admitted as evidence.

Virador and Luque denied all the accusations hurled against them.

Torres had charged that the militant leaders took part in the

burning of a passenger bus and the robbery at Anna's Farm and the Department of Agriculture office in Barangay Ladian, Marilog District in "furtherance of their rebellious causes" sometime last year.

But Virador said the witnesses should speak from facts and not from hearsay.

Virador cited several reasons why the charges against him should be dismissed.

"Even assuming (for the sake of argument) that the allegations of the supposed witnesses were true still they could not make out a case of rebellion against me," he said in his request before the prosecutor's office.

On the other hand, Luque, who was accused by a young witness as having "donated" a number of cellular phones and money to communist rebels last year, described the accusations as "malicious, baseless and false."

"I was not and have never been a member or an official of the underground movement," he said.

Luque said he is only active in

several legal mass organizations that advocate human rights, justice, freedom and democracy.

"My activities as a member or officer of various militant and progressive organizations have been very open and legal, but not armed—a fact that for several occasions, I caught the ire of and (was) subjected to various attacks by some quarters, particularly the police, the military and other conservative sectors," he said.

Ariel Casilao, Karapatan secretary general for Southern Mindanao, said the allegations against Virador and Luque were

the military's form of retaliation against people critical of the government.

Virador and Luque have prominently figured in the filing of various charges against the military.

Casilao said they will continue their campaign to expose human rights violations committed by the military.

As this developed, Karapatan said the deaths of at least three children from military bullets in Baganga, Davao Oriental on Aug. 18 was a massacre.

Earlier, civilian residents of Sitio Cabuyao Nursery, Barangay

Binondo, Baganga submitted affidavits accusing the military of "indiscriminately" firing their guns.

"Such acts of the military constituted a massacre, in serious violation of human rights and international humanitarian laws," the Karapatan report dated Aug. 29 said.

The report stemmed from a two-day fact-finding mission in the area initiated by the group and several organizations, including media men. *Ayan Mellejor and Anthony Allada with a report by Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Fake media denounced

DAVAO CITY—Journalists here have started to close ranks against fake reporters after the recent infamous Jaworski incident. The Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) has also started an investigation to identify the two radio men who asked for money from a staff member of Sen. Robert Jaworski in exchange for favorable reports. Noel Amoroso, chair of the KBP-Davao chapter, said the investigation was meant "to protect the interest as well as safeguard the credibility of the broadcast industry." The incident has elicited condemnation, Amoroso said.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Blast kills woman

DAVAO CITY—A grenade explosion on Wednesday killed a woman and wounded her child and two others on Mabini Street here. Chief Insp. Filmore Escobal, Sta. Ana police chief said two men identified as Federico Paragoso, 36, and Fernando Lascanas, 30, were in a brawl when an explosion occurred on Mabini Street, Barangay 37 around 1:30 p.m. Escobal said shrapnel from the explosive device killed Myrna Bautista, a resident of the area, and wounded her year-old baby girl. Lascanas lost his arm, while Paragoso suffered injuries in the leg.

Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

SK election protest

BANGUED, Abra—A losing Sangguniang Kabataan federation president candidate here filed an election protest against the winning SK federation president for alleged preselection irregularities. Nestor Belisario, SK president of Barangay Zone 6 here, said he and two other SK presidents in the town were invited to a meeting in the house of a local official on Aug. 17, the eve of the elections. He claimed that a man who met them at the house instructed them to vote for Celia Bodono, who eventually won as SK federation president. Belisario said another man, who was called "Kap," gave them P900 as "registration fee."

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Warden, guards arrested

LEGAZPI CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation here arrested a provincial jail warden and two jail guards on Saturday for allegedly killing six inmates in Masbate on May 31. Jose Doloiras, NBI Legazpi chief, identified the suspects as Charlie Quidato, Masbate jail warden, and Isagani Quidato and Ranillo Ayque, both provincial jail guards. Doloiras said the inmates tried to escape and were armed with high-powered guns when the jail guards fired at them. The victims, identified as Edgar Victoria, Anatalio Laurio, Rommel Basas, Ronald Buri, Ronsem Bravante and Benito Coa, were said to have died on the spot. Doloiras said four jail guards involved in the killings were still at large.

Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Bus hits churchman

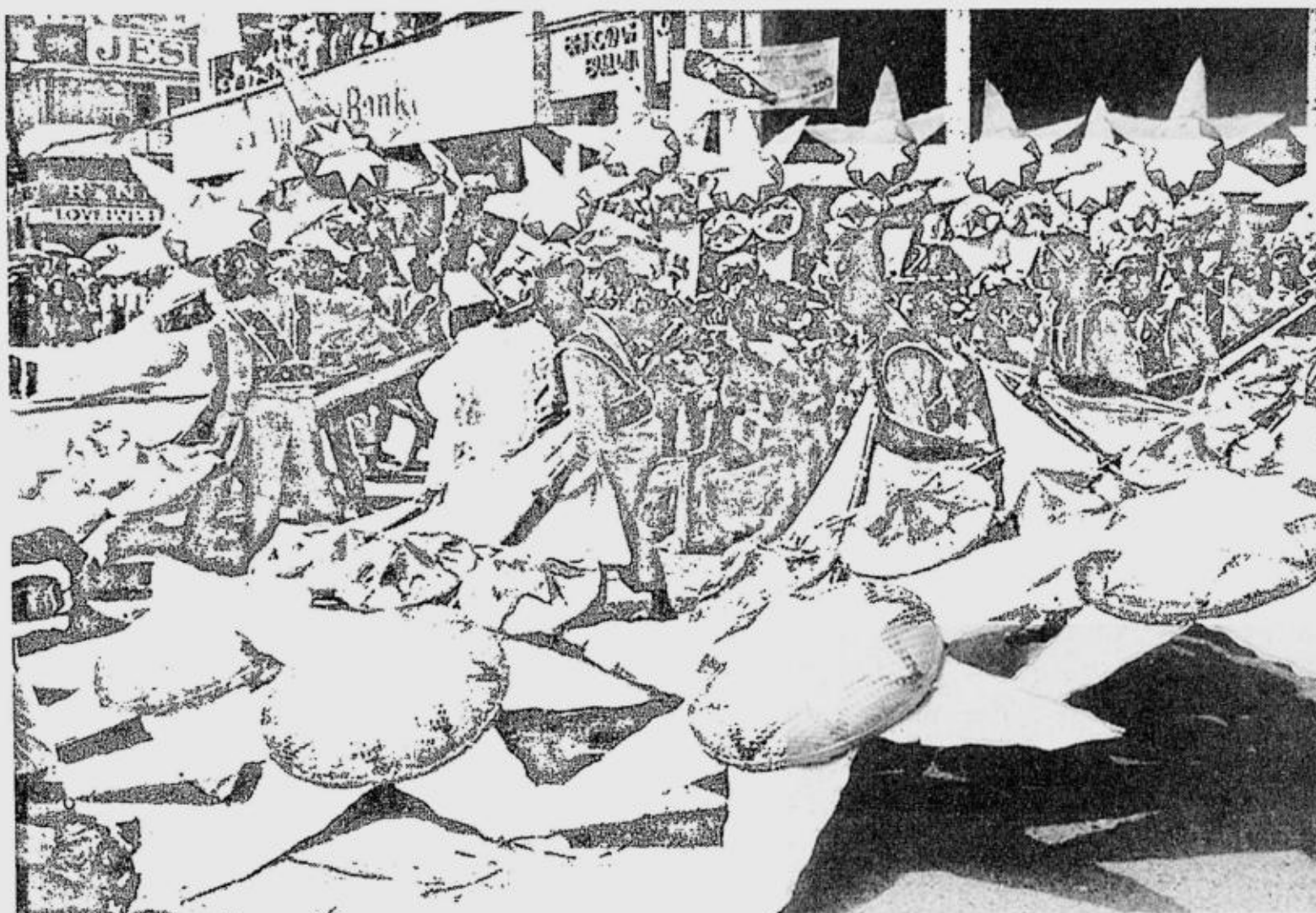
VICTORIA, Laguna—A church worker and volunteer of the National Movement for Free Elections and the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting was crushed to death by a speeding tourist bus along the Pila national highway Thursday last week. Supt. Amado Sadili, Pila police chief, identified the victim as Francisco Peregrina Garcia, 24, single of Barangay San Francisco, this town. A speeding Manila-bound tourist bus bumped Garcia who was then about to cross the highway in his bicycle. The bus driver, identified as Johnny Alas Dahingo, 36, of Bayanan, Muntinlupa City, is now jailed in Pila. Police are preparing to file charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Fish sanctuary

LEGAZPI CITY—The Sangguniang Bayan of Bacacay in Albay has declared a 46.25-hectare area within the territorial waters of Barangay Uson and a fishery reserve area within the seawaters of Barangays Buang and Pongo-Bonga, all in Bacacay, as fish sanctuaries. Municipal Ordinance 107, series of 2002, protects the sanctuaries from all forms of fishing and collection of any marine organism. It also bans motorized vessels. Penalties for violation of the ordinance range from P1,000 to P2,500-fine or imprisonment for three to six months and confiscation of fishing paraphernalia.

Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



FLORAL FEAST

Performers form a giant flower on the streets of Davao City during the city's recent celebration of the Kadayawan Feast which draws hundreds of visitors to Davao every year.

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Grenade explodes in mayor's house, kills guard

CABANATUAN CITY—A village guard was killed and four other people were hurt after motorcycle-riding men threw a grenade at the house of the mayor of Jaen, Nueva Ecija, on Thursday night.

Police identified the fatality as Emilano Valmonte, 45, a volunteer guard. The wounded were taken to a hospital in San Leonardo town.

Jaen Mayor Cesar Eduardo, who was recently suspended for two months by the Ombudsman, said the target of the grenade attack could be his younger brother Rodolfo, newly

elected barangay captain of Putlod.

Eduardo said his brother planned to run for president of the Association of Barangay Captains of Jaen this September.

But Rodolfo, the mayor said, was with him in his house in the poblacion of Jaen during the attack.

Police said Valmonte and the four other victims were talking at about 8 p.m. in front of the mayor's house when two men on a motorcycle arrived. One of the men, who was wearing a bonnet, threw the grenade at the group.

"The culprit probably thought my brother was with the group," Eduardo said.

The blast also damaged the steel gate of the yard and broke the house's glass windows.

Eduardo, who was suspended in early August, said politicians in the town could have hired people to harm his family. He said rumors had been circulating in his town that he would not return to his post.

"They may be planning to harm me," he said, without identifying the politicians supposedly

behind the plot.

Eduardo has reinforced security in his house since his suspension.

His suspension stemmed from a complaint of the former barangay captain in Jaen who claimed Eduardo withheld benefits due him and his village.

"It was a trumped up charge in retaliation for a (municipal council) order that dismissed him from government service for various offenses," Eduardo said.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

GSIS shuts loan doors to 2,000 Pampanga teachers

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—More than 2,000 teachers from Pampanga's barangay high schools cannot avail of salary and emergency loans from the Government Service Insurance System starting Aug. 30.

This after the GSIS Pampanga branch suspended their loan applications following the Department of Education's non-payment of some P40 million in government share of premiums from 1997 to 1998.

GSIS officials said the amount was not paid due to the change in

the system of remitting government premiums under the new GSIS Act, which took effect in 1998.

Before 1997, the then Department of Education, Culture and Sports division in Pampanga left it to its school divisions to remit the government share to the GSIS.

But starting January 1998, the DepEd, through nationally appropriated funds, was required to pay directly to the GSIS.

Vilma Labrador, DepEd director in Central Luzon, said the arrears

reached only P9.5 million. This amount, she said, also covered the increase in government share from 9.5 percent before 1997 to 12 percent starting 1998.

GSIS officials clarified that the P40-million arrears represented only DepEd's 9.5-percent contribution of the employer's share.

The issue, which also plagues other school divisions throughout the country, is being settled by DepEd and Department of Budget and Management officials, reports said.

While the issue remained un-

resolved, the teachers, who aired their plight to the INQUIRER for fear of reprisal from their superiors, urged the GSIS to lift the suspension of loan applications.

GSIS records showed that barangay teachers in Pampanga were updated in the payments of their personal premiums.

"Why must we be punished when we paid our dues? Why must we be denied our right to obtain loans amid the slow resolution of the issue?" a teacher asked. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Rebels attack firm, burn equipment

*By J. Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—Heavy equipment owned by the construction company Gorones Development Corp. were burned by heavily-armed suspected rebels on Tuesday night in Sitio Tan-awan, Guadalupe, Carcar, some 40 kilometers south of this City.

A group of about 15 suspected New People's Army guerrillas arrived at the GDC Compound around 7 p.m., disarmed the security guards and set on fire the backhoe, payloaders and stone crusher trucks found inside the compound.

The suspected rebels also pushed down in a nearby ravine one water truck, according to security guard Wilfredo Habagat.

Habagat said the armed men tried to push other heavy equipment down the ravine but they failed because the pieces of equipment were heavy.

Carcar Mayor Mario Patricio Barceñas said the Philippine National Regional Mobile Force has a detachment in Barangay Guadalupe but they failed to respond immediately as the policemen thought the alarm was due to fire.

Carcar police chief Gaudencio Cagape said they did not expect the attack because the intelligence report they got was that the rebels were targeting a police station in Barili town in western Cebu.

Police and the military went after the rebels and arrested one who claimed that the burning was a punishment for Gorones for failing to pay revolutionary taxes.

Larry Boy Montecillo, of Barangay Lawaan, Talisay City, was arrested on board a passenger bus at a checkpoint.

Bishop slams inaction vs Negros illegal logging

*By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau*

BACOLOD CITY—Bishop Vicente Navarra on Wednesday slammed Negros Occidental government officials for failing to put a stop to massive illegal logging inside a forest reserve in Don Salvador Benedicto town, some 47 kilometers northwest of this city.

In a pastoral letter, the bishop said the provincial government and the agencies involved in the preservation of the North Negros Forest Reserve in Barangay Bagong Silang, Don Salvador Benedicto had shown themselves to be "inept, conspiring or without the political will" to stop the illegal cutting of trees.

The government, he said, was dragging its feet in catching the culprits and masterminds of what he called as an "insensitive and criminal vandalism for profit."

"We appeal to our provincial government, to the office of the governor, and all the other government agencies concerned that they expedite the solution of this case, and sincerely and courageously fulfill their duty to stop further illegal logging and any form of destruction of our forest," Navarra said.

He said the people should not be blamed if they became skeptical and entertained suspicions that there was either collusion between the people in government and the suspects, or an official attempt to whitewash the

case.

Records at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) showed that about 60 hectares of the 35,000 hectare-North-Negros Forest Reserve Area had been destroyed by unabated timber poaching.

The forest reserve straddles the towns of Don Salvador Benedicto, Calatrava and E.B. Magalona and the cities of Talisay, Silay and Cadiz.

The trees cut by timber poachers were endangered species of red and white lauan, almaciga, almond and tangle trees. Some trees had trunks as big as drums while others were believed to be between 50 and 80 years old.

Gov. Joseph Maranon thanked Navarra for "reminding" them of their obligation as government officials, saying the bishop was being true to his calling as "shepherd of the flock."

He, however, refuted the allegation that they had been inept in their duties as officials, saying that the illegal logging activities in Barangay Bagong Silang would not have been uncovered had it not been for their initiative and the efforts of the province's anti-illegal logging Task Force Ilahas.

Maranon said his office immediately brought the issue to the attention of the national government. He said he even discussed it personally with Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

INQUIRER Visayas

Editor Jun Bandyrel • Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Tacloban's ordeal with traffic lights

By Cynthia A. Borgueta and Joey A. Gabieta
Tacloban City

THE STREETS of Tacloban City will have traffic lights for the first time. But even before the light can turn green, some city officials are seeing red. They believe the four traffic lights, at P22 million, cost twice than their actual value.

The city government, they said, stands to lose P12 million of taxpayers' money if acting mayor Edwin Chua insists on the installation of traffic lights that were found overpriced.

The city government will have to pay its supplier P22 million although, according to the city treasurer, the actual amount is only P10 million for the four units of Peek traffic signal facilities using the Split, Cycle-time, Offset Optimizing Technique (SCOOT).

Chua, who heads the Committee on Bids and Awards, was likewise questioned why the procedures of buying these items were not strictly followed.

The four traffic lights are due for installation anytime now. Based on the purchase order that was made for the winning bidder, Rocha Construction Inc., each unit costs P5.5 million. The facilities are for the four intersections on Veteranos-Rizal Avenue, Veteranos-Real, Salazar-Justice Romualdez, and Real-Independencia streets.

But the city government has yet to pay the supplier of these facilities as city Treasurer Erlinda Reyes refuses to sign the collection voucher. "I will stand pat on my decision. I know for a fact that there was overpricing in the procurement," she said.

Of the six members of the awards committee, only four signed the document that declared Rocha Construction Co. the winner in the bidding held on April 18 this year. Those who signed were Chua as chair of the committee, Councilor Rolando Hidalgo, city accountant office's officer in charge Lourdes Asis, and general services chief Rudolph Mate.

Two other members—Reyes and city Budget Officer Heraclea Segovia—did not affix their signatures when the committee, on April 23, awarded the purchase of the Peek traffic signal facilities to Rocha Construction.

Reyes told the INQUIRER Visayas that since April 19, when the committee evaluated the bids, she was already complaining that the traffic lights that the three bidders offered to the city government were overpriced. The other bidders were Ligao Sto. Nino Construction and A.L. Manzanilla Construction companies. All their offices, including that of Rocha Construction, are based in Manila.

Based on the Abstract of Bids, A.L. Manzanilla Construction offered the highest bid at P6.1 million per unit of Peek traffic signal light. Ligao Sto. Nino made a bid at P5.8 million per unit and Rocha Construction, P5.5 million per unit.

Chua: 'nothing irregular'

Acting Mayor Chua insisted that there was no irregularity on the purchase of these items saying that all the procedures were properly observed.

"There is nothing irregular and as chair of the committee, I did not violate any of the procedures," he told the INQUIRER.

But Reyes also insisted that Chua and the other members of the awards committee have done the opposite.

She said it was on April 19, actually hours before the evaluation of bids, when she found that the three construction companies were overpricing the facilities.

Reyes said she learned of the overpricing after she conducted a personal canvass on the same kind of traffic signal lights after inquiring about the prices of these items from a Manila-based traffic lights supplier. At that time, she said, she inquired through a long distance call from her office.

She clarified it was not from Rocha Construction, Ligao Sto. Nino or A.L. Manzanilla from whom she learned the "real" price but from Leo-Ram Builders Construction, a Quezon City based traffic lights supplier.

In that telephone inquiry, she added, she came to know that the Peek traffic lights using SCOOT only cost P1.3 million per unit.

Also, Reyes said she learned that Rocha Construction, A.L. Manzanilla and Ligao Sto. Nino have no track record of having supplied or installed traffic lights because they are more into road construction.

Not accredited supplier? Reyes said she suspected that Rocha Construction only bought the traffic lights from an accredited traffic lights supplier. "I have fears that Rocha just bought the items from another accredited traffic lights supplier that is why its price is very high," she said.

Besides, she added, Rocha is not in the list of accredited suppliers or distributors of traffic signal facilities.

Records at the Traffic Engineering Center at the Department of Public Works and Highways in Sta. Mesa, Manila showed that there are only four accredited suppliers and distributors of the traffic facilities that the city was getting from Rocha Construction. These are the Gampik Construction and Development Inc., located in Quezon City; the Gosset Builders, Inc. in Mandaluyong; the Traffic Signal Builders, Inc. in Sta. Ana, Manila; and the Leo-Ram Builders located in Quezon City.

An insider from Gosset Builders, Inc. told the INQUIRER Visayas on condition of anonymity that Rocha Construction indeed just bought the facilities from Gosset.

The source said he came to know about it a week before the awarding of bids was held.

He said Rocha Construction bought the four units of traffic lights from Gosset Builders for P6.4 million. Each unit cost P1.6 million.

Actually it is Gosset Construction who supplies and do the installation for the peek traffic signal facilities using SCOOT... and it is only worth P10 million not P22 million...

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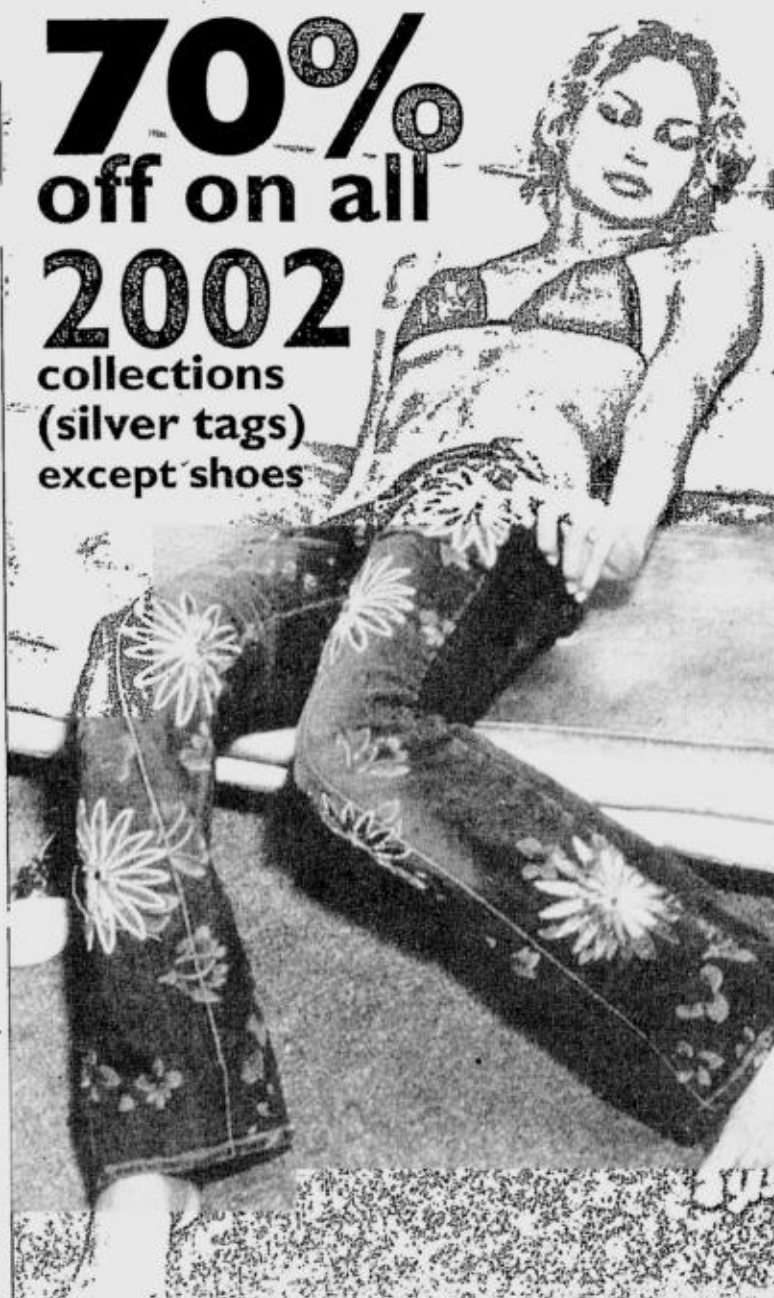
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Tacloban's ordeal with traffic lights

From page A17

He added that the cost of installing the units was P3.6 million, bringing the total cost to P10 million.

"Actually it is Gosset Construction who supplies and do the installation for the peek traffic signal facilities using SCOOT. . . and it is only worth P10 million not P22 million," he told the INQUIRER.

No pre-qualification

Reyes and Segovia also questioned Chua and the other three city officials in the awards committee for their failure to follow the procurement procedures of the traffic lights.

Reyes and Segovia explained that since the source of funds for the purchase of traffic lights was the approved budget for infrastructure projects, the bidding should have gone through the Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards or PBAC and should not have been immediately decided by the bids and awards committee.

In their letter to Chua dated May 16, 2002, Reyes and Segovia wrote: "We concur with the observation of lawyer Federico Triste, Jr., city administrator, that the traffic lights is an infrastructure project as it is in the approved budget for infrastructure projects which was then approved by the now on leave mayor, Alfredo Romualdez, Sr."

(Romualdez has gone on leave since May this year for medical treatment.)

The purchase of these items was then approved for this year's Annual Procurement Plan, and

was approved by Romualdez in December last year.

In their letter, Reyes and Segovia asked Chua why he, Hidalgo, Asis and Mate never conducted a pre-qualification screening of prospective contractors to check if they met legal, technical and financial requirements. To determine whether the prospective contractors met these requirements, the awards committee should have conducted a pre-qualification of bids, they said.

But Chua, Reyes said, refused to listen to their concerns. "He and the other members of the awards committee just ignored our complaints," Reyes said.

Hidalgo, like Chua, denied that the winning bid was "highly excessive." He insisted that there was nothing irregular in the purchase of the traffic lights.

"We did not violate any procedure in the procurement of these items," he said because the traffic signal facilities and the cost of their installation are categorized as "supplies."

He said their action was legal because "supplies includes everything, except real property, which may be needed in the transaction of public business or in the pursuit of any undertaking, project or activity whether in the nature of equipment for construction. . ."

Reyes, however, insisted that the purchase of the traffic lights is not placed under supplies but should be categorized as an infrastructure project since the source of funds was from the approved budget of infrastructure projects.



Despite the controversy, a foundation for the streetlights is being constructed along Justice Romualdez Street in Tacloban City, Leyte.

JOEY A. GABETA

'Employable' courses draw more students

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

MORE low-income families are now enrolling their children in vocational and technical courses offered by schools in Western Visayas region due to poverty and demand for technical skills abroad.

Officials of the Technical Education and Skills Development

Authority (TESDA) have noted an increase in high school graduates enrolled in one- or two-year technical courses offered in TESDA-administered schools in the region.

For school year 2000 to 2001, there were about 2,500 high school graduates who enrolled at Passi Trade School in Passi City, Iloilo, New Lucena Polytechnic College in New Lucena in Iloilo, Leon Ganson Polytechnic College in Ajuy town, Iloilo and Dumalag Vocational School in Capiz.

These schools offer courses in demand for employment abroad like automotive mechanic, health aide, midwifery and institutional housekeeping, a euphemism for domestic work.

For 2002 alone 1,100 persons completed the courses given by TESDA training centers. The courses include welding, fabrica-

tion of farm implements, furniture and cabinet making, engine overhauling, computer maintenance and mobile phone maintenance, among others.

There is also a growing list of schools registered by TESDA which makes sure that schools comply with minimum standards prescribed in training regulations on a competency-based system.

Negros Occidental has the most schools who have their vocational and technical courses registered by TESDA at 47. Iloilo province has 20 schools; Capiz, 16; Aklan 10, and Antique, 5.

Demand abroad

Valerio Rola, officer in charge of the TESDA regional office based in Iloilo City, said that the demand for blue-collar occupations here and abroad have greatly influenced the career decisions of low-income families.

(Rola led TESDA officials in a

press conference, Aug. 19, on the occasion of its 18th anniversary.)

Lawyer Natalio Sitar, a member of TESDA's regional technical education and skills development committee, said that students flock to vocational and technical courses because these are "highly employable."

He said that the current demand for some 100,000 caregivers in Canada, Europe, United States and Japan made many high school graduates decide to go into vocational courses.

They have also noticed that even graduates in medical and nursing schools, and other courses apply as caregivers abroad. Western Visayas is a huge supplier of domestics, caregivers, nurses and seafarers abroad, TESDA said.

The success stories of caregivers or domestics may inspire many in their communities to enroll in one- or two-year diploma or non-degree courses that guarantee employment abroad, said Rola.

Driven by the demand for semi-skilled workers abroad, schools have started revising their courses and curriculum and offer courses like health aide, on being a governess, associate in elderly care, food and beverage preparation and service attendant and deck and engine ratings.

Of the 88 schools registered in TESDA in Western Visayas, close to 60 percent, or 51 schools, offer computer courses.

Some students enroll in computer courses because either they failed to pass the entrance examinations of universities and colleges or cannot afford four-year degree courses, which cost P5,000 to P15,000 a semester.

Computer courses are popular despite the lack of firms and offices to absorb legions of computer graduates every year. Yet many high school graduates choose computer courses over those that require manual labor like carpentry and plumbing.

Inmaculada Panes-Gallego, chief of TESDA's regional operations division, said that the West Visayas College of Science and

Technology and the TESDA's training center have stopped offering courses on plumbing and furniture and cabinet making. She said there are no takers unlike trades like auto mechanic or computer or electricity.

TESDA only offers furniture and cabinet making to members of the Iloilo Furniture Makers Association that specializes in bamboo furniture.

A "tracer" study on 510 graduates trained in TESDA's two regional training centers and four provincial training center in Western Visayas noted that majority are high school graduates and college undergraduates.

More than half (62 percent) found job three months after their training and these are mostly on mechanical, electric and metal trades and woodworking courses, but on a casual or seasonal basis.

Their average monthly income is between P3,300 to P3,900, both of which are below the minimum wage of P4,800. Those who failed to find work said that no jobs were available or they are still awaiting the results of their job application.

Respectable living
TESDA officials denied that their training and accredited courses are mainly geared for foreign markets. However some countries hiring caregivers and maritime companies are increasingly requiring applicants to obtain TESDA certificates as proofs of competency.

The TESDA certificates are made of Bangko Sentral-issued paper to discourage fakes. The TESDA office here issues 100 to 300 certificates every month.

Roberto Montelibano, chair of the regional technical and skills development committee and regional governor of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that despite the contribution of the vocational and technical sectors to the economy, blue collar jobs are generally looked down at. But he said there is a need to push for reforms to make technical and vocational education responsive for both domestic and international demands.

"Blue collar occupations provide decent and respectable living," he said

'Blue collar occupations provide decent and respectable living'

'Computer courses are popular despite the lack of firms and offices to absorb legions of computer graduates every year'

From senator to mayor?

BREAKAWAY

Ivan Suansing

SENATOR John Osmeña for Cebu City mayor?

Before you fall about laughing, consider that it was the senator himself who asked his trusted sidekicks to start a signature campaign for his possible mayoralty bid.

Apparently, amid the backlash triggered by his defection to the opposition, including lower approval ratings, Osmeña has been forced to weigh all his available options.

He's testing the waters in Cebu City, perhaps the most attractive choice should a Senate reelection campaign become untenable.

Should he decide to covet City Hall, Senator Osmeña will be on a collision course with his cousin, incumbent Mayor Tomas.

Feuding with relatives is nothing new to the senator. Until now, he has not patched things up with his brother Lito, from whom he's estranged because of clashing political ambitions.

Tomas is "amused" at the prospect of facing his cousin in the next elections.

Describing the senator as "anti-Cebuano," the mayor believes John has no real following in the city.

Still, the mayor remains wary of his cousin, one of those he suspects to be silently orchestrating the move to eject him from City Hall through a recall election. The reason, he believes, is the South Reclamation Project (SRP), a veritable gold mine for scheming politicians.

But it's also possible that John is floating his name as a mayoral contender to scare the hell out of Tomas and win a concession. The concession could be in the form of a political endorsement, or a role in the completion of the mega-buck SRP.

WEAK LAKAS. How strong is the Lakas party in Cebu?

Party stalwarts have just abandoned Gov. Pablo Garcia, their leader who is cozier with mem-

bers of the local opposition party Alayon, but for obvious reasons won't jump into the other side of the political fence.

A grizzled politician, Governor Garcia knows better than to leave the ruling party and its limitless resources. He insists on leading a rambunctious bunch, the "inelectable and unelected," who will have none of him.

Since he can't make his members unite with him, the governor is peddling the idea of a "united Cebu," to be given flesh by the "dream tandem" of Vice Gov. John-John Osmeña, the senator's son, and Gwendolyn Garcia, the governor's daughter.

At first, this combination looked awesome. The combined resources of two hitherto warring political families and the natural appeal of unity would have easily produced a winning ticket.

But when Senator Osmeña rejoined the Senate opposition in a high-risk gamble that didn't quite end the way he expected it, things became trickier. Would the administration support the son of the senator who once betrayed it?

'Feuding with relatives is nothing new to the senator. Until now, he has not patched things up with his brother Lito, from whom he's

estranged because of clashing political ambitions'

It's easier for local Lakas leaders to make a case for the rejection of Garcia's chosen candidates, but whom will they field come 2004? Their choice, former congressman Celestino Martinez Jr., already tasted defeat at the hands of the younger Osmeña in the last vice-gubernatorial battle.

The wide open race for the top Capitol position has encouraged another Osmeña to come out of retirement—former Cebu governor Lito, the estranged brother of Senator John who kissed his ambition to be president goodbye by proposing secession, the establishment of an independent Cebu state.

EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS? With all the Osmeñas and Garcias seeking, and winning elections, one would think they had a patent on public office. Take these surnames out of Cebu's political history and what will you have left?

Cebu has a large pool of bright leaders who will shine if given a chance. The way the two dynasties are lording over local politics, that chance won't come in a long while.

How JOSOL WOODWORKS...

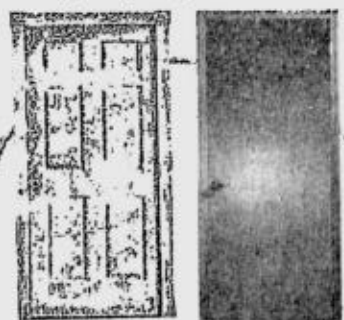
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DSWD denies detaining deportees for Gloria's visit

THE DEPARTMENT of Social Welfare and Development yesterday denied that 15 deportees were taken to hospital Thursday for treatment of dehydration as a result of their long wait for President Macapagal-Arroyo's arrival in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi.

In a letter to the INQUIRER, Celia

O. Yangco, officer in charge of the DSWD Field Operations and Capacity Building Group, said the 10 babies and five adults who were taken to hospital were dehydrated "because of their deprivation in the detention centers in Sabah."

"Their condition was not the result of their two-hour stay inside

the boat," Yangco said, adding that the deportees were given food and drinking water for the duration of their trip from Sabah to Bongao.

Yangco also said the deportees were not "detained" in the Philippine Navy ship.

"Rather, all of them, especially the children, were given food be-

fore disembarkation," she said. "They were fed inside the boat because food is not immediately available at the processing centers for the deportees. Further, the boat arrived at 11 a.m. but it took them more than an hour to dock."

Dr. Redentor Rabino of the Department of Health had told the INQUIRER

that they got to Bongao from Sandakan at 1:30 p.m. Thursday. "We were told that our arrival should be synchronized with the arrival of the President in Bongao," he said.

Ms. Macapagal arrived at 2:40 p.m. Only then did Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman order the deportees to disembark.

"The President came to Bongao to see the whole process of welcoming, assisting and documenting the deportees," Yangco said. "She realizes the ordeal our 'kababayans' have been through. That is why she wants to see for herself that they are assisted completely and efficiently."

Protesters . . .

From page A1

weeping over her dead baby, which had provoked anger in the Philippines, was shot on a Philippine naval ship ferrying the deportees home. He also said it was possible that the mother had not reported the child's weak condition before boarding the ship.

"If she had come to us and told us her child was sick, we would (have) immediately (sent) the infant to the hospital, with the mother," Zakaria said. "But these immigrants, they don't want to remain in the camp longer than they have to, so they fear missing the boat home while they are in the hospital."

Zakaria said that inmates were sent to the hospital as soon as they complained of illness, and that none had died in the camp.

"We treat them properly here, and these allegations are all baseless," he said, adding:

"What do we have to gain by denying them basic needs like health care and food? They are human, too, and besides, if any of them die, we will also have a lot of answering to do."

"After what the government has been doing, the money we have spent on these immigrants, this is the thanks we get."

Magnet for migrants

Wealthy Malaysia has become a magnet for migrants fleeing poverty or violence in their home countries in Southeast Asia.

Hundreds of thousands of migrants work legally there, mostly in construction, agricultural or service industries. Officials say hundreds of thousands more remain illegally, despite the crackdown partly motivated by security concerns.

Malaysian authorities have been enforcing new laws that allow whipping, imprisonment and large fines for illegal foreign workers since Aug. 1.

More than 300,000 migrants—mostly from the Philippines and Indonesia—have fled Malaysia in recent months to escape the new penalties.

Around 50 Indonesians shouting "Go to hell, Malaysia!" protested yesterday outside its embassy in Jakarta—the second demonstration this week against the new laws that several Indonesian politicians have described as inhumane and discriminatory.

Syed Hamid said that Malaysia had given neighboring governments fair warning about the new laws, and that "we are now just exercising what our laws provide."

"When we want to enforce our laws, no one should accuse us of abusing people. This is not right," he said.

Syed Hamid said deportations were being conducted "as humanely as possible under the circumstance." He added that the large numbers of illegal migrants made the task difficult.

3 meals a day

Another official at the Sandakan camp said inmates were given three meals a day, consisting of rice, vegetables and fish.

He admitted that overcrowding was sometimes a problem, with more than 1,000 inmates living in the 850-capacity camp.

"Because of the overcrowding, when a ship is delayed and there is nowhere else to put the immigrants, fights tend to break out, but it's always kept in control," he said.

The camp, which sits atop a hill on the outskirts of Sandakan, has four blocks divided into quarters for women and men.

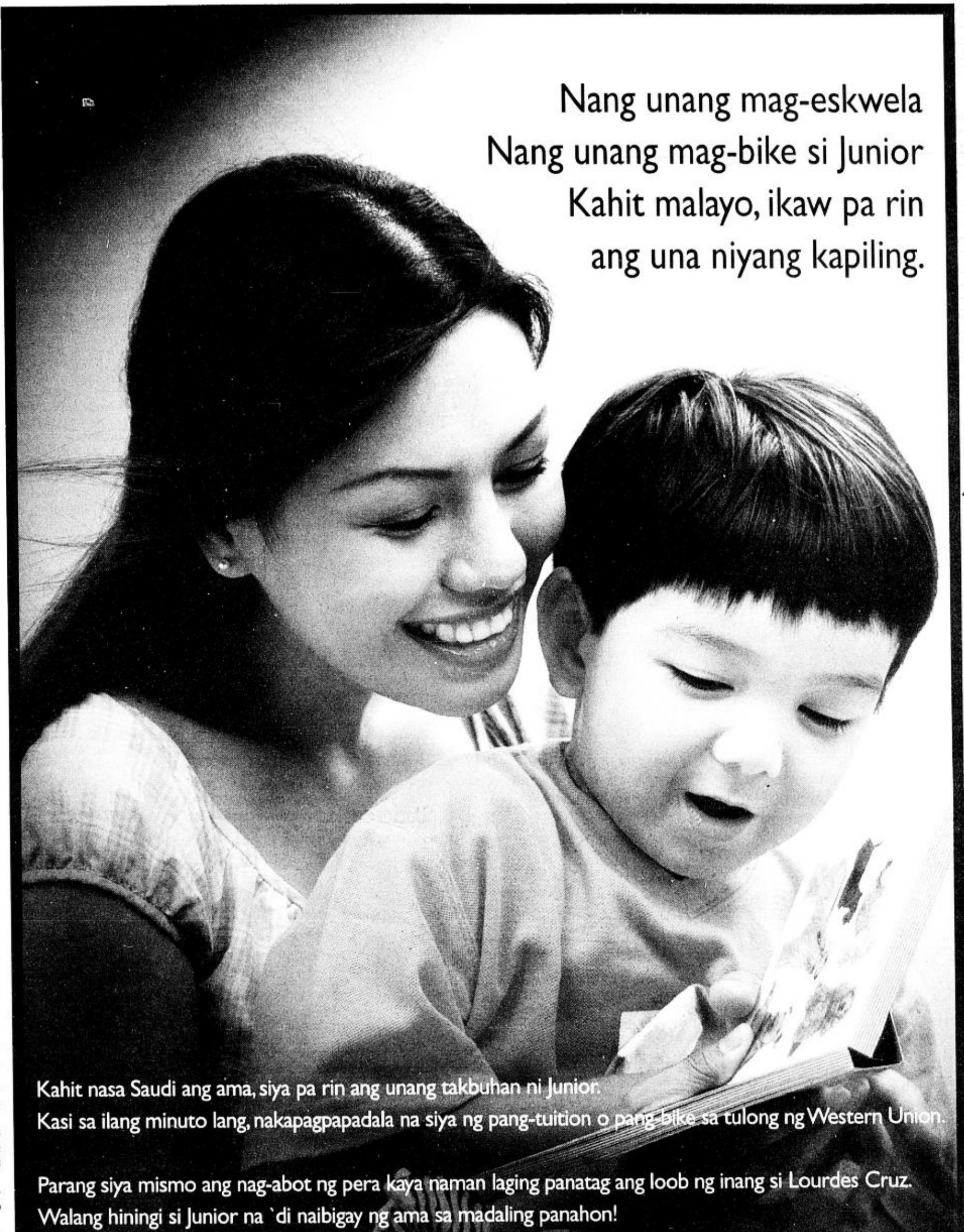
The alleged mistreatment of Filipinos in Malaysia has sparked protests in Manila, and Ms. Macapagal has expressed her dismay over the plight of the deportees.

According to Philippine Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, Filipino diplomats had established that "two infants died of dehydration and pulmonary diseases and many others bore signs of weakness and disease due to lack of food and clean water" at Malaysian holding centers.

Since February, about 64,000 Filipinos have left Sabah and about 4,000 others are awaiting deportation.

Up to half a million Filipinos live in Sabah.

Reports from AP, AFP



Nang unang mag-eskwela
Nang unang mag-bike si Junior
Kahit malayo, ikaw pa rin
ang una niyang kapiling.

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A CHAOS of more than a thousand deportees wait to disembark from the Philippine Navy ship that brought them from Sabah to Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, for processing.

... So she calls Malaysian PM herself

From page A1

Undersecretary Lauro Baja, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, presidential legal counsel Avelino Cruz, deportation "crisis manager" Nur Jaafar and Bunye.

In Bangkok, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) called on Malaysia to slow down the deportation of migrant workers from the Philippines and Indonesia.

"Malaysia should not push people out in large numbers within a short period," Farooq Azam, the Bangkok-based IOM regional representative, told Agence France Presse. "If you take harsh measures to send people back, some human rights are bound to be violated."

Earlier yesterday in Pagadian City, the President said four more Navy boats had been sent to Sabah to collect the undocumented Filipinos there.

She said the government was trying to beat the Aug. 31 deadline set by the Malaysian government for illegal aliens, including Filipinos.

Ms Macapagal said the Navy boats left Tawi-Tawi Thursday evening and were expected to bring home some 6,000 more Filipinos being held by Malaysian authorities.

But deportees arriving in Tawi-Tawi said the number of Filipinos still in detention in Malaysia could easily reach about 30,000, according to Abidin Nuruddin, chair of Barangay Tubig Mampallam in Bongao.

Nuruddin said social welfare officials who accompanied the earlier trips to Sandakan made a similar estimate.

Another death

Three-year-old Lebenir Ibno died of bronchopneumonia at the

Datu Halun Sakilan Memorial Hospital yesterday, bringing to 18 the total number of children who died in the exodus of undocumented Filipinos from Malaysia.

Belinda Adil of the Provincial Social Welfare Office said that in August alone, eight children died of various illnesses.

Sources said Ibno's death was caused by delayed medication.

The child was among the 1,450 passengers of the BRP Dagupan who were told to stay aboard the ship and wait for the President's arrival Thursday.

In an interview, Dr. Redentor Rabino of the Department of Health said at least five adult deportees had died since the exodus began. "But we cannot get the names or identities of these people," he said.

Rabino, who was with the second wave of deportees who arrived here Thursday, said Malaysian authorities were "very arrogant" even toward Filipino authorities.

"I just feel this sense of helplessness and hopelessness. What more our fellow Filipinos there?" he said.

Rabino also said Malaysian authorities did not have respect for Filipinos.

He cited an incident wherein a Malaysian jail guard hit a woman deportee on the head because she failed to fall in line.

"That fellow used a thick log book, more than an inch in size, to hit the woman," he said.

Provincial Health Officer Dr. Sukarno Asri said two mentally distressed deportees had been referred to them.

"We don't have any mental ward here," he said. "That's why we left them in the care of the social workers temporarily."

Fr. Rito Daquipil expressed con-

cern for the "very high" level of anger among the deportees.

"There will always be endless tales of terror from Filipinos coming from Malaysia," he said. "What we fear is that when this terror would become a catalyst for anger in every Filipino."

Strained ties

In Surigao City, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the deportation crisis could seriously affect relations between the Philippines and Malaysia.

Roxas told participants of the Mindanao Business Conference, including Malaysia's trade minister, that the two governments "should prevent the situation from worsening."

In Manila, Vice President Teofisto Guingona called for the formation of an inter-agency task force that would evaluate available evidence to support the demand for reparation by the Philippine government against Malaysia for the massive detention and deportation of Filipinos.

He said the Malaysian government should be taken to task for "violation of its commitment to protect and respect fundamental human rights."

"We should aim at making a case of Malaysia's responsibility for acts in breach of its obligation to respect human rights under international law," Guingona said in a statement.

In Iloilo City, an official of the Department of Foreign Affairs said the problems arising from the deportations were a result of an "apparent gap between the commitment of high officials in Kuala Lumpur and implementation of their decision on the local level."

Farita Aguillucho-Ong, DFA ex-

ecutive director of the office of Asean affairs, said the deportation was announced way ahead of the act. "Maybe both sides were overwhelmed by the sheer number (of deportees)," she added.

But Ong welcomed the announcement of the Malaysian government that it would investigate the police and immigration officials in Sabah over the reported harsh treatment of undocumented Filipinos in detention centers.

"The decision of the Malaysian government to investigate was swift. We will take this one step at a time," she said.

Ong said the Philippine government would await the result of the investigation of the Malaysian authorities, who had promised to accept responsibility if their officials were found guilty.

"The bottom line is that Filipinos should be treated as human beings even if they are staying there illegally," she said.

Ong said the migration of Filipinos to Malaysia was mainly caused by the economic conditions in the Philippines.

She said problems on labor migration could only be resolved through the overall improvement of the economy.

Ong said Malaysia had offered to accept and give jobs to thousands of deportees if they returned with proper documents.

She said the DFA would waive its fees to help the deportees with their papers. *Reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Norman Bordadora and Rocky Nazareno in Manila; Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau; Julie S. Alipala, Anthony S. Allada, Hernan dela Cruz, Franklin A. Caliguind and Rolly San Juan, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AFP*

Ramos says no to Gloria, won't see Mahathir...

From page A1

on the cellular phone. I understand that they are cellular phone pals."

Ramos said that during the crisis in the early 1990s involving Filipino domestic worker Flor Contemplacion, he had a direct line to Singaporean leader Go Chok Tong.

"We had no cellular phones at that time so we had the international direct line," he said. "We would talk two to three times a week during those times."

The Singapore courts found Contemplacion guilty of killing fellow Filipino Delia Maga. She was hanged despite appeals by the Ramos administration for a reprieve.

Ramos said it would be "counterproductive" for him to go to Malaysia without certain mechanisms that the government should first set up.

"If I tell (Mahathir) that they stop these deportations, he would only counter that these are according to their law," Ramos said. "As far as emissaries go, why don't they send the government experts who negotiated with the Malaysians in line with our problem with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front? If I were Prime Minister Mahathir, this is what I would expect the Philippine government to do."

Consultations

Among Ramos' suggestions are for the Philippines' foreign policy leaders to daily consult with their Malaysian counterparts regarding the situation on the ground.

"One of the issues that should be discussed is the alleged maltreatment of Filipinos. Were they caned? Were they not fed?" he said.

"On our end," he added, "we should address the security of the country's entry points into Malaysia to prevent illegal aliens from getting there."

Ramos said the Philippine government must continue to seek redress for the violation of the rights of Filipinos. This, he said, must be done without compromising bilateral relations with Malaysia.

"Reviving the claim to Sabah at this time to compel them to do certain actions is counterproductive," he said, adding:

"Let us take it easy. Don't panic."

"Remember that Malaysia is a fellow member in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and the Asean is our anchor in pursuing our (foreign policy objectives)."

The former President also said a diplomatic row with Malaysia would affect the momentum of the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asian Growth Area, the counter-terrorist coalition with

Malaysia and Indonesia, and Malaysian investments in the country's energy sector.

He expressed the hope that the two countries would emerge from the crisis with better relations.

He said constant communication between the Philippines and Singapore during the Flor Contemplacion crisis ensured "better bilateral relations after everything had passed."

Diplomacy

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said the Philippines had no legal recourse to pursue its claim to Sabah.

He said at a press conference that only "diplomacy," and not a legal suit, could resolve the issue involving the territory in the northern tip of Borneo.

"Let's leave (the Sabah claim issue) to the President and the Department of Foreign Affairs," Perez said.

He said Malaysia had refused to submit the matter to the International Court of Justice for adjudication, as earlier suggested by the Philippines during the Marcos regime.

Quoting a Department of Justice opinion dated Aug. 7, 1975, and written by former Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos, Perez said the claim to Sabah involved an issue that is "one of fact, and not of law."

Abad Santos issued the opinion to address fears that the Philippine claim to North Borneo would "pre-empt" due to the failure of the Philippine government to recover the territory from Malaysia.

"And even if resort to the law of nations could be made in the present case, I am not aware that any rule has as yet been evolved on the manner by which a state's adverse possession of another state's territory may ripen to title," Abad Santos said.

Perez also furnished the INQUIRER a legal opinion written by the late Supreme Court Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee, who said that "espousing and presenting such a claim" could only be done "diplomatically."

Teehankee, then justice secretary, issued on April 2, 1968, a memorandum upholding the right of the Philippine government, through then President Ferdinand Marcos, to negotiate with the Malaysian government on behalf of the heirs of the Sultan of Sulu.

"If this responsibility is assumed, the claim may be prosecuted as one nation proceeds against another, not by suits in the courts, as of right, but by diplomacy, or, if need be, by war," Teehankee said. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

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Uichico: We need more international exposures; Selecta-Melbourne on

GAME TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4 p.m.—Selecta-RP vs Melbourne Tigers

By June Navarro

THE NEXT national basketball coach to the Asian Games in 2006 will most likely suffer the same fate of RP team head coach Jong Uichico.

A day before Uichico's boys try to avenge their opening-day loss to the visiting Melbourne Tigers,

Uichico said the next coaching staff to the 2006 Asian Games will inherit their fate if the PBA continues to adopt the same manner of selecting and training the national team.

"It's all hindsight. If the PBA would do this again after four years, the next coach will have the same experience similar to the one I'm experiencing," said Uichico yesterday at the SCOOP sa Kamayan-West Avenue.

The PBA has been handling national teams to the Asian Games since 1990.

The country placed second in Beijing in 1990 under coach Robert Jaworski, fourth in Hiroshima in 1994 under coach Norman Black and third in Bangkok in 1998 under coach Tim Cone.

"Unlike in other countries, the national coach has a stint of at least three to five years. All the

mistakes that he had in the first year will certainly be rectified in the succeeding years," said Uichico.

Uichico also lamented the fact that the Nationals failed to compete in the Jones Cup, which he described as a perfect breathing ground for scouting and sizing up the enemy.

"On hindsight again, maybe we should have gone to the Jones Cup," said Uichico.

Uichico pointed out the Nationals' Italian trip three months back was an eye-opener to the coaching staff.

He said the RP Team should have an abundance of international exposures in the runup to the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea, from Sept. 28 to Oct. 14.

The Nationals lost to Italy twice and to Latvia once before stunning Ukraine in the four-team goodwill games in Rome.

"These games bring out the flaws that the team has. It also provides room for improvement," said Uichico, who bared the Nationals are almost 80 percent ready except for some refinements.

"We wanted more international exposures after the Italian trip. But since we're committed to play in the PBA second conference, we weren't able to get what the team needed," he said.

It's official: Baculi will coach Dazz

By Dennis U. Eroa

BEMEDALLED coach Junel Baculi will return to the PBL but with a new team. Owner of five league titles, Baculi has replaced Koy Banal as mentor of Dazz Dishwashing Liquid (formerly Kutitap Toothpaste).

Team manager Bernard Yang confirmed that Baculi, who had a short-lived stint with the Olongapo Volunteers in the MBA, will assume the head coaching job.

"Junel is our new coach," said Yang. Baculi met and finalized matters with Yang and team owner Cecilio Pedro on Thursday.

Baculi's return to the Pedro-owned franchise is a reunion of sorts. In 1997, Baculi steered the Ma Jian-led Hapee team to an upset win over Stag in the finals of the Reinforced Conference. It was Baculi's first title as coach.

One of Baculi's players was former PBA rookie of the year Leo Austria, who would turn out to be a deadly adversary when it came to coaching.

Austria became head coach of Shark Energy Drink, which beat Welcoat in two Challenge Cup finals. Austria transferred this year to Welcoat.

"I'm glad that coach Junel is back. He is a brilliant coach and a colorful figure in the league," said Austria.

Baculi said Dazz's lineup is almost complete. He confirmed that former MBA star Peter June Simon will don Dazz's jersey. "We're also talking with Eugene Tan," said Baculi.

Tan was Baculi's pointguard in Welcoat and Olongapo.

Baculi said Dazz is preparing to compete in the 2nd Cebu Basketball Federation-PBL Friendship Cup slated middle of October in the Queen City of the South.

Progress slow as baseball braces for strike

NEW YORK—Baseball negotiators worked into Friday morning, inching toward a possible labor deal as the United States awaited word on whether players would strike later in the day.

Lawyers for both sides, carrying proposals and umbrellas, shuttled between the commissioner's office and union headquarters in the rain. Progress was coming slowly, according to people who spoke to negotiators.

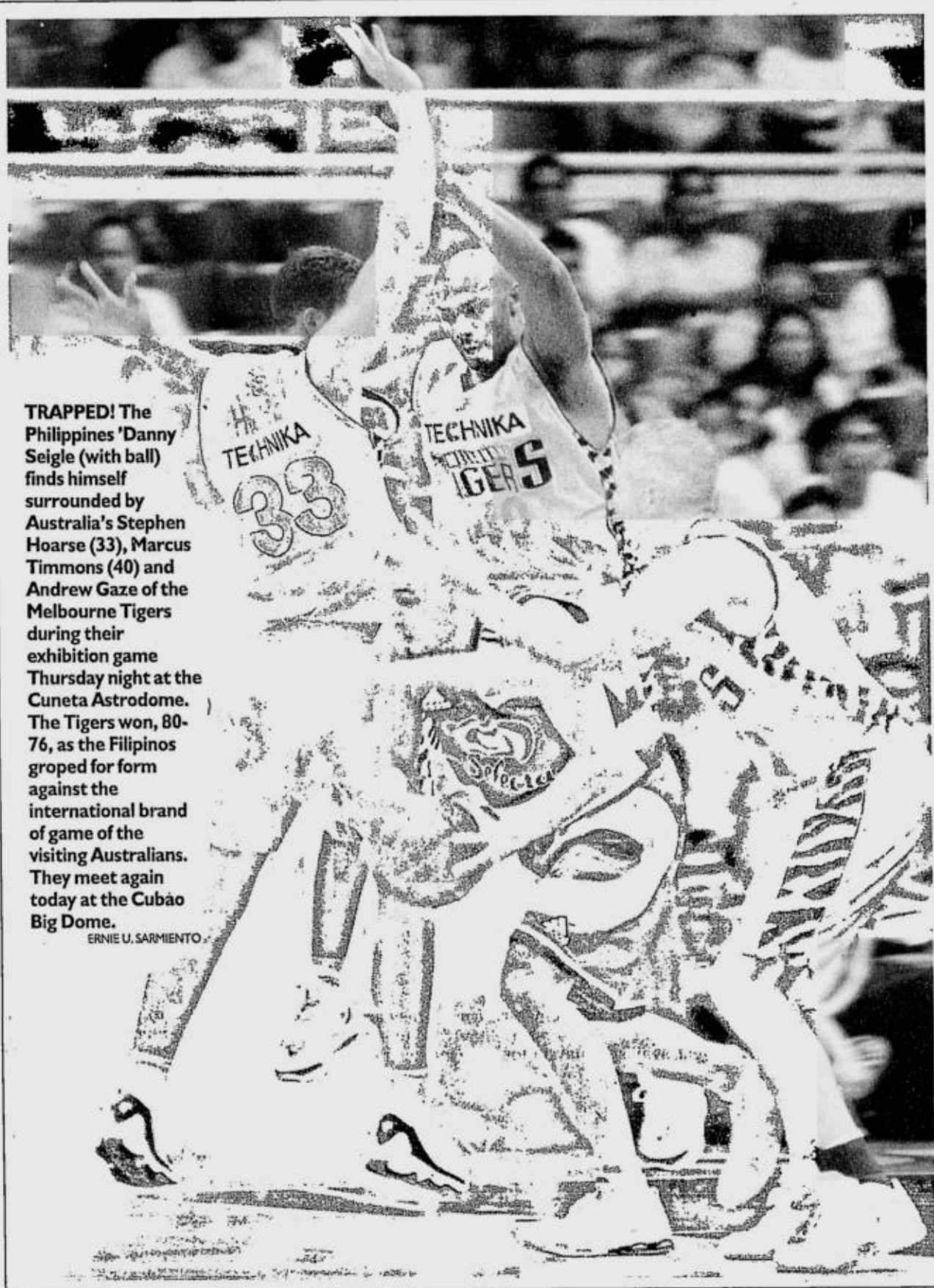
"We're just going to keep working," said Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer. "I've been prepared to stay for the night all week."

"Of course there is an increase in sense of urgency. No one wants to lose a single game or a single day of games."

There was no set time for the start of a strike, which would be the sport's ninth work stoppage since 1972. The first game affected would be St. Louis at Chicago, which is scheduled to begin at 1920 GMT. Fourteen games are scheduled at night, but the union told players not to report if an agreement isn't reached.

After five bargaining sessions Wednesday and three on Thursday, the sides remained apart on the key issues: levels for a luxury tax and revenue sharing. Other unresolved issues were the owners' desire to fold two teams and the expiration date of any new settlement.

Both sides met early in the evening to work on the drug-testing agreement reached this week. The main talks resumed Thursday night when union head Donald Fehr and his top aides went to the commissioner's office along with Atlanta's Tom Glavine and B.J. Surhoff.



TRAPPED! The Philippines' Danny Seigle (with ball) finds himself surrounded by Australia's Stephen Hoarse (33), Marcus Timmons (40) and Andrew Gaze of the Melbourne Tigers during their exhibition game Thursday night at the Cuneta Astrodome. The Tigers won, 80-76, as the Filipinos groped for form against the international brand of game of the visiting Australians. They meet again today at the Cubao Big Dome.

ERNEO U. SARMIENTO

Yugoslavia 5 shows class

SOLAR TODAY

1-3 p.m./9-11 p.m.—Spain vs Yugoslavia

RPN/SOLAR TODAY

7-9 p.m.—USA vs Germany

RESULTS

Yugoslavia 113, Angola 63; Spain 85, Canada 54; Brazil 102, Lebanon 73; Puerto Rico 78, Turkey 75; New Zealand 90, Russia 81; Germany 88, China 76; United States 110, Algeria 60; Argentina 107, Venezuela 72

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—Yugoslavia opened defense of its record fourth gold medal yesterday with a 113-63 thrashing of Angola.

The win firms opinion that Yu-

goslavia is the favorite to find a way to hand the United States its first international defeat while using NBA players.

But there was no way to get anyone from Yugoslavia to talk about a matchup with the US team down the road in the 16-team tournament. Neither the coach nor any of the players, including the five who also play in the NBA, would even approach the subject.

"We were waiting for this game and are now looking forward to facing quality opponents and hopefully keep playing as well as we did today,"

Yugoslavia coach Svetislav Pesic said.

Vlade Divac, who had nine points and seven rebounds in 16 minutes, held his ground when asked about the US team.

"We're not even in the same group," the Sacramento Kings' center said. "When the time comes, we'll talk about them."

Angola coach Mario Palma couldn't wait, however.

"Yugoslavia is one of the better teams in the world and the final will be the United States and Yugoslavia," he said. "They are near the US. Just wait for that final, it will be a great game."

69 gives Tojino Southwoods crown

LARRY Tojino fired a net 69 to romp away with the Class A division trophy from a record field 281 members of the August monthly tournament of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club.

Tojino, who earned a 14-inch color TV to go with his trophy, beat Buddy Velasco (71) and Andrew Pineda (72) in the newly renovated Legends course.

The Legends course was closed last January to accommodate major changes and innovations. It now sports the new Tifeagle greens for maximum playability and enjoyment of the members.

"Since its opening, the Legends course has been getting favorable reviews and comments from the general membership of the club. This interest must have enticed them to join the tournament," Manila Southwoods Chairman Robert Sobrepeña noted after a record field 281 members joined the event.

Benjie Abela closed with a net 69 to rule Class B honors. Jun Fernandez and Il Soo Bae finished with identical 70s but the former placed second via a lower handicap. Other winners in their respective divisions were K.C. Tan (Class C), Tag Marasigan (Class

D) and Lota Nemec (Ladies).

Cecilia Hidalgo was also a big winner after winning the grand raffle prize of a Sony VCD Component System. No one won the hole-in-one prizes which included an automatic Mitsubishi GSR courtesy of Mitsubishi Motors and an Alaska Cruise from Princess Cruises.

"The overwhelming response by the members forced our Sports and Games Committee to shift the awarding ceremony venue to the veranda at la Southwoods Invitational in order to house the big crowd," said golf director Jeric Hechanova.

'Bull' enters finals

GAME TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)
5:30 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Alaska.

By June Navarro

BATANG RED Bull recovered from an ego-deflating setback the other night to defeat San Miguel Beer, 85-80, and advance to the Finals of the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup last night at the Cuneta Astrodome.

With vengeance in their eyes, the Thunder eased the pain of an embarrassing 102-68 debacle against the Beermen in Game 3 of their best-of-five semifinal clash to book another championship appearance since joining the league in 2000.

"That game was an embarrassment to us as a team and as individuals. We really felt bad the way we lost in Game 3," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao.

There was no trace of bewilderment though on the Thunder's faces as they dominated the Beermen and hurdled a huge stumbling block in the endgame.

Ahead, 81-69, on the strength of Julius Nwosu's inside forays, the Thunder saw an imposing lead dwindle as Elmer Lago, Nic Belasco and Boybits Victoria keyed a San Miguel uprising.

Victoria drilled two consecutive treys and Belasco added an undergoal stab that erased a big deficit, putting the Beermen back in business, 80-81, with 40 seconds left.

The Beermen were about to pull the rug from under the Thunder but Lago and Sheela Seals flubbed two potential game-clinching triples near the buzzer.

"The pressure was really on us. San Miguel was coming off a big win and they had the momentum. We just came out there and restored our pride," said Guiao.

Alaska forced a do-or-die affair tomorrow with a come-from-behind 82-76 victory over Talk N Text in the second game.

Scores:

RED BULL 85—Lang 18, Harp 18, Nwosu 14, Miller 11, Locsin 6, Torion 6, Valenzuela 5, Hizon 3, Reyes 2, Tugade 2.

SMB 80—Seals 25, Victoria 15, Mott 12, Lago 12, Belasco 9, Pena 4, Garbosa 2, Mente 1.

Quarters: 18-23, 45-43, 73-54, 85-80.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: US Open 2002 Men's Second Round/Women's Third Round at 7 a.m. (r - 12:30 p.m.) and 10:30 p.m. on Star Sports

MOTOR SPORTS: 2002 F1 Qualifying - Belgian Grand Prix at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: LPGA Golf Bank of Montreal Canadian Women's Open, Third Round at 7 a.m. on ESPN

PGA Air Canada Championship, Second Round at 4 p.m. (r - 8:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

SOCCER: Goal! at 10:30 a.m. (r) on ESPN

English Premier Football League 2002/03 at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. (r) and 9:55 p.m. on ESPN

Futbol Mundial at 11:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Football Asia at 12 noon (r) on Star Sports Western

Union World Football at 5:30 p.m. on ESPN

UEFA Super Cup - Real Madrid vs Feyenoord Final at 6:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

EPL Saturday Premiership Saturday Preview at 9 p.m. on ESPN

BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 11 a.m. (r - 6 p.m.) on Star Sports

BOWLING: CGU Asian Bowling Tour (China) Women's Highlights at 1 p.m. on ESPN

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Sparks 1 win away

NEW YORK—The Los Angeles Sparks are one win away from their second straight WNBA championship. Mwadi Mabika scored 20 points and DeLisha Milton added 17 as the Sparks withstood a late comeback to hold off the New York Liberty, 71-63, yesterday in Game 1 of the WNBA Finals. Game 2 in the best-of-three series is Saturday in Los Angeles. The Liberty are 0-3 in WNBA Finals, losing all three times to the Houston Comets. The Sparks are 5-0 in the postseason this year and have two chances at home to win the title, but the Liberty are familiar with facing elimination.

Woods to dump Olympics in favor of a major, says Parry



WOODS

MELBOURNE—Australia's Craig Parry, a winner on the US PGA Tour last Sunday, said yesterday top golfers like world number one Tiger Woods will always rate the majors ahead of an Olympic gold medal.

Olympic leaders yesterday proposed radical changes to the Summer Games, including

throwing baseball, modern pentathlon and softball out of the 2008 Beijing Olympics and putting in golf and rugby union sevens.

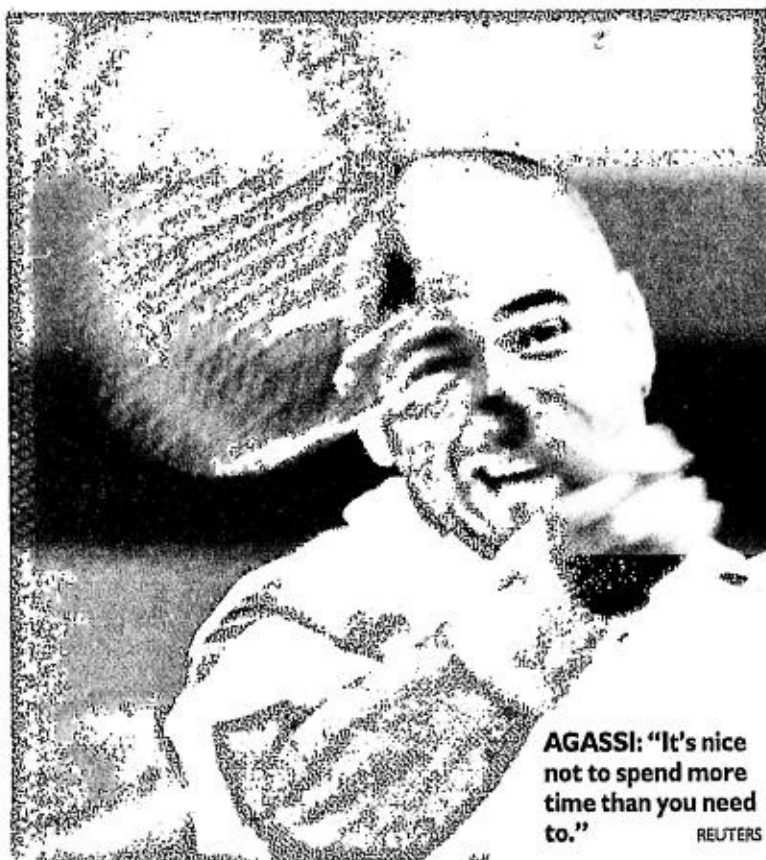
"I don't believe that Tiger Woods would rather have an Olympic gold medal than another major trophy in the cabinet," Parry was quoted as saying on Australian Broadcast-

ing Corp (ABC) Radio on Friday. "I think he would have the major every time."

Woods, 26, has won eight majors in his career, including two out of four this year. International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Jacques Rogge announced the IOC's ruling executive board would discuss the new

proposals at a November meeting in Mexico before deciding whether to put them to a vote of all IOC members at a subsequent session in the city.

Parry, 36, soared 73 places to number 45 on the world rankings after his maiden US PGA Tour victory at the WGC-NEC Invitational last Sunday. Reuters



AGASSI: "It's nice not to spend more time than you need to." REUTERS

Agassi does it in 66 minutes

All top seeds, except Kafelnikov and Costa, advance

By Howard Fendrich

NEW YORK—After rain delayed play for five hours, Andre Agassi made short work of fellow American Justin Gimelstob, 6-0, 6-1, 6-1, in just 66 minutes Thursday to move into the third round for the US Open.

Former US Open champions Lleyton Hewitt of Australia, Venus Williams and Lindsay Davenport of the United States, and Switzerland's Martina Hingis also grabbed wins.

American Jan-Michael Gambill produced a lopsided score, upsetting ninth-seeded Carlos Moya of Spain, 6-3, 6-3, 6-1, for his first over a top-10 player in 2002.

Fourth-seeded Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov meanwhile, tumbled out at the hands of Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty, and French Open champion Albert Costa of Spain was knocked off by South Africa's Wayne Ferreira.

With his wife, former world number one Steffi Graf, and 10-month-old son, Jaden, watching in the

stands, Agassi, who won the Open in 1994 and 1999, made 27 winner shots to six in his demolition of Gimelstob.

"It's nice not to spend more (time) than you need to," Agassi said. "You're glad you're not him. You're glad that it's not happening to you."

Hewitt's 7-6 (7), 6-4, 6-1 victory over Israel's Noam Okun put the defending champion into a Saturday rematch against 25th-seeded American James Blake, who defeated Russia's Nikolay Davydenko 6-3, 4-6, 6-1, 6-3. AP

Tan Ho, Ngo score easy wins, reach Philta Classic semifinals

XAVIER School's Joshua Tan Ho defeated La Salle-Zobel's Edwin Olivarez Jr., 7-6 (5), 6-1, yesterday to reach the boys' 12-under semifinals in the Philta Classic 4 age-group tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

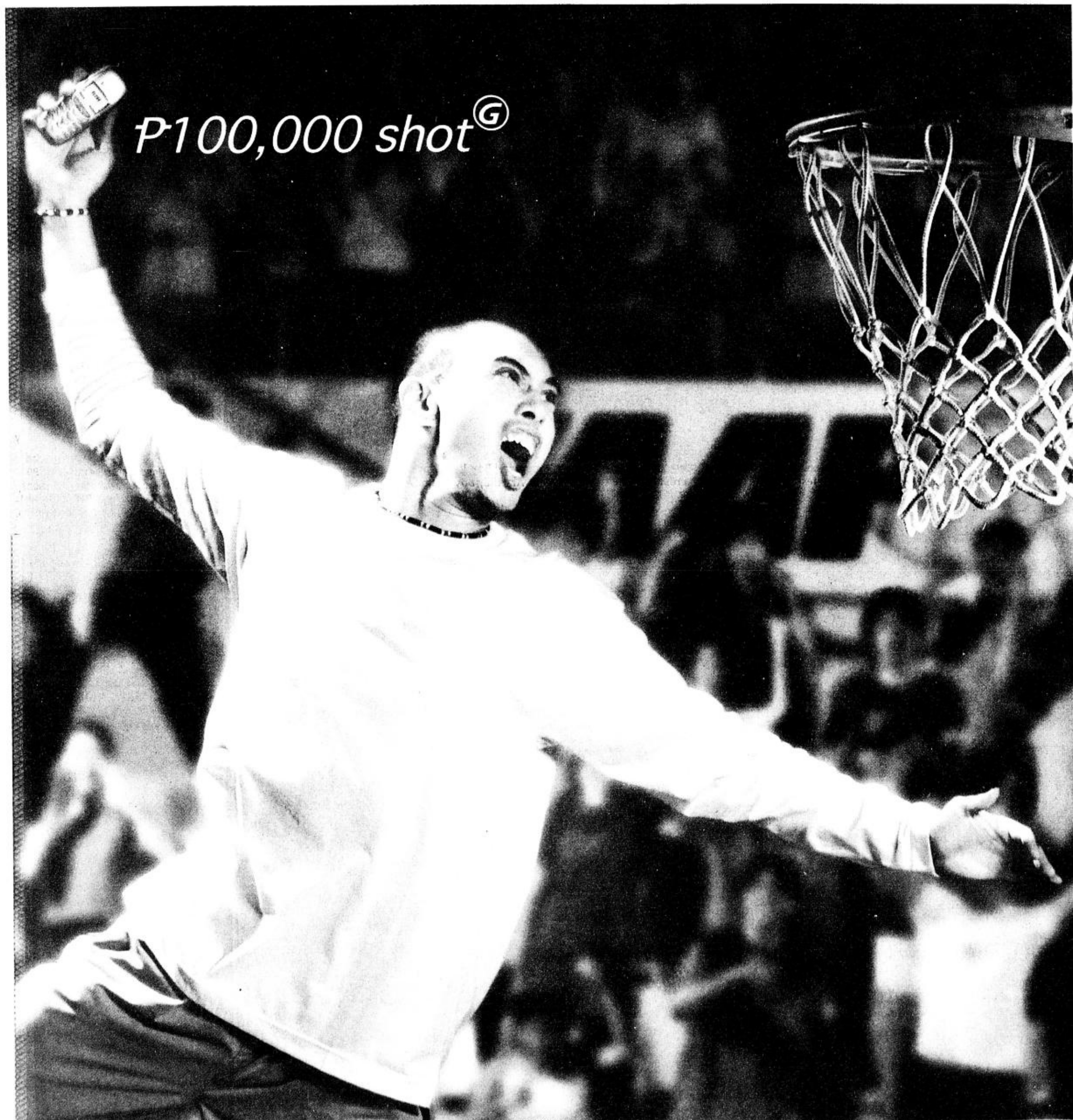
Lourdes School's Gerard Ngo also advanced following a 6-4, 2-6, 6-2 victory over

Jose Lorenzo Oplencia.

In the unisex 10-under class, Bernardine Siso of Cebu downed John Marie Altiche, 6-1, 6-0, to arrange a semifinal meeting with Akio Sy, a 6-0, 5-7, 6-1 winner over Paul Nicole Magaway. In the other match, Joseph Baldonado beat Kim Ivon Saraza,

6-2, 6-1.

In the boys' 14-under division, Ateneo's Daniel Luis Macalino rallied past Mark Balce, 6-1, 4-6, 6-2, to advance in the quarterfinals against schoolmate Christian Canlas, who scored a 6-0, 6-1 win over Raymarc Santiago.



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UE	8	2	UP	3	6
UST	6	4	Adamson	3	7
Ateneo	5	5	NU	1	10

STANDINGS	W	L		W	L
La Salle	10	0	FEU	4	6
UE	8	2	UP	3	6
UST	6	4	Adamson	3	7
Ateneo	5	5	NU	1	10

STANDINGS	W	L		W	L
SSC	10	3	Letran	6	6
CSB	9	3	Mapua	6	7
PCU	9	4	UPHR	1	11
JRU	8	4	San Beda	1	12

By June Navarro

JOSE Rizal University held its ground amid a wild comeback by the College of St. Benilde to register an 81-79

squeaker and complete the Final Four cast in the NCAA basketball tournament yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Marco Polo Fajardo struck hard in the crucial moments, knocking in 11 of his game-high 34 points in the fourth quarter as the Heavy Bombers posted their eighth victory in 12 outings and booted the Letran Knights out of the semifinal race for good.

Joel Finuliar muscled his way throughout and came up with a double-double performance—12 points and 13 rebounds—that overwhelmed the entire frontline of the Blazers.

railed their bid to recapture the solo leadership and close in on a twice-to-beat incentive going to the Final Four.

Earlier, Mapua clobbered San Beda College, 88-68, for its sixth win against seven setbacks. The Red Lions tightened the race for the eighth spot as they dropped to 1-12, a loss ahead of the also-ran UPHR Altas.

Scores:

JRU 81—Fajardo 34, Finullar 13, Santos 8, Te 7, Villar-in 6, Attunaga 6, Estolano 4, Borboran 3, Paule 0, Callelero 0.

ST. BENILDE 79—Salvacion 25, Magpayo 14, Capat 11, Orbeta 10, Reyes U. 5, Sagad 4, Castro 4, Mendoza 4, Reyes V. O, Perlas O, Coching O.
Quarters: 25-14; 41-35; 61-56; 81-79.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, San Miguel Beer beat Purefoods, 105-86, to capture the PBA All-Filipino Conference crown at the Nasa. Also today in 1992, Bong Co Garcia defeated Arianne Cerdana, 231-202, to bag the ladies' Masters event of the 12th FIQ Asian Zone championships in Perth, Australia.

SPORTSWATCH

Benilde cagebells battle Assumption

DEFENDING champion College of St. Benilde aims to extend its winning run today while Lyceum College and Miriam College grapple for second place at the resumption of the 33rd WNCAA-adidas basketball tournament at the St. Scholastica's College gym. A win by CSB over host Assumption College (1-4) in their 5 p.m. encounter will give the Taft-based squad its sixth straight win against no defeat. But a loss, coupled with a Lyceum win over Siena College of Quezon City (2-4) in the 3:30 p.m. game, would relegate them to second place as the Pirates would climb to 6-1.

Matira Matibay II moved to Sept. 18

MATIRA Matibay II originally scheduled today has been postponed for Sept. 18 due to an injury suffered by the World Boxing Council International minimum weight champion Ernesto Rubillar last Monday Aug. 26. Although the Thai challenger, Phalangchai Sor Vorapin, has arrived in Manila, and everything is in order, boxing promoter Gabriel "Bebot" Elorde Jr. has no choice but to move the fight on Sept. 18, still at the theater of Casino Filipino-Paranaque. Aug. 30 ticket holders will still be honored on Sept. 18. For details, call 825-7229.

Go-for-Goal kicks off in Zamboanga

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Fourteen teams, led by defending champion Zamboanga City State Polytechnic High School, will see action in the Zamboanga Coke Go for Goal under 16 football eliminations which kick off today at the Don Joaquin Enriquez Memorial Sports Complex here. Challenging Zambo Polytechnic are Ateneo, Claret, Filipino-Turkish Tolerance High, Ayala National High, Talisayan National High, West National High, Don Pablo Lorenzo Memorial High, Western Mindanao State University High, T'lusungay National High and Mercedes National High.

7-stag derby submission of weights

SUBMISSION of weights to the "10th Annual RAY Showdown 7-Stag Derby" is set on Sunday, Sept. 1, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Rolygon Mega Cockpit. To be hosted by lawyer Romero Yu and veteran promoter Danny Ty, the event will start on Monday, Sept. 2 featuring the 3-stag elimination round. The finals (4-stag) is on Wednesday, Sept. 4. "Please be reminded that the derby will start at 4 p.m. sharp on Monday because more than 90 fights are scheduled. A guaranteed pot of P1 million awaits the champions, while the handler and gaffer will get P150,000. Entry fee is P18,000. Assisting the hosts are veteran Lamadores Renato Shio (Blyd), and Abo Centeno.

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas eyes to fortify its Final 4 bid when it tackles Ateneo, while University of the Philippines tries to stay in contention when it meets Adamson today in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Eagles need to repeat over the Tigers in order to keep their distance over the fifth-running Far Eastern University Tamaraws (4-6).

The clash is set at 4 p.m. after the 2 p.m. encounter between Adamson and UP.

Pointguard L.A. Tenorio, who scored 11 of his 17 points in the fourth period as Ateneo beat UST, 95-85, in the first round, will cut a lonely figure from the bench. He is recuperating from a fractured right hand.

But Ateneo coach Joel Banal isn't worried. "Of course we will miss I.A. But I have

Banal was referring to Cris Quimpo, Macky Escalona and Marco Benitez.

Quimpo and Escalona did the playmaking chores as the Eagles snapped a three-game losing streak by beating the National University Bulldogs, 90-79, on Thursday. **Dennis U. Eroa**

13 HS teams Nike finalists

THIRTEEN of the best high school teams from across the country will vie for the Nike 3 on 3 National Title at Dr. Funk's Playground in the Activity Center of the Alabang Town Center tomorrow.

Provincial teams University of St. La Salle-Bacolod, University of the Visayas, Sacred Heart of Jesus Montessori School-Pampanga and Baguio City National High School will arrive in Manila today for the championship.

They will be joined in by Metro Manila finalists International Christian School, Jose Abad Santos Memorial School, Philippine College of Criminology, San Beda College, St. Francis of Assisi-Las Piñas and Xavier University.



WORLD CAGEFEST UPSET

Russia's Vassili Karashev (left) fights to steal the ball away from New Zealand's Mark Dickel yesterday during their team's opening round match at the 2002 World Basketball Championships in Indianapolis, Indiana. New Zealand won, 90-81. Story on A21.

Salud, Cojuangcos lead NCA 'Stagwars'

THE PIONEER National Cockers Association launches its annual "Stagwars" series on Sept. 16-18, with the staging of the NCA 7-Stag Derby at the Araneta Coliseum.

Seeing action in this season-opening stagfights are the country's cream of the cockfighting crop, among them Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta, Gov. Ito

Ynares, Frank Berin, Firefly Group, Jingco brothers, Jet Fernando, Rudy Salud, Danding Cojuangco, James Chiongbian, Peping Cojuangco and longtime partner Esting Cojuangco, Rep. Claude Bautista, Mario Villarom and Boy Jiao, Meycauayan Mayor Eddie Alarilla, Boy Primallon and Tos Reyes, Louie Cua and Joseph Sy, Boy de Roca, John Capinpin and Edgar Santos.

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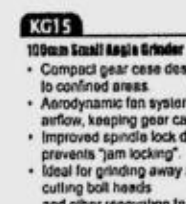
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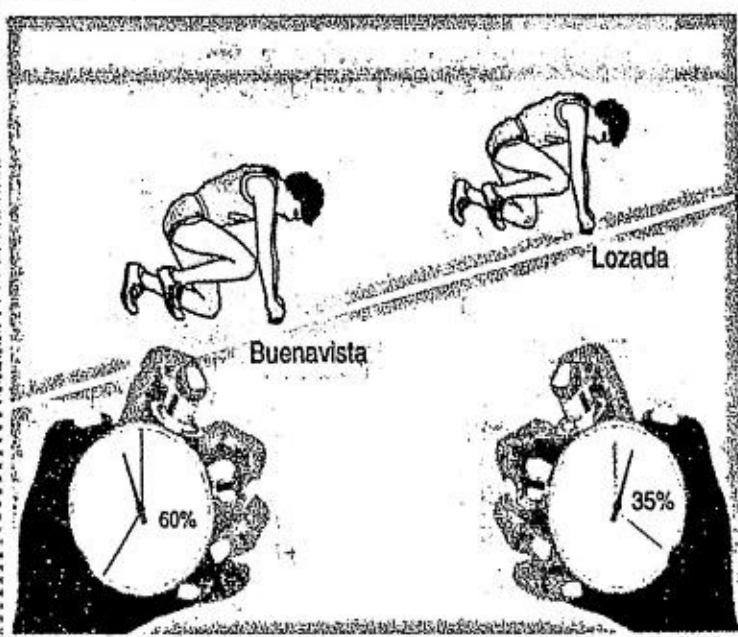


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RP's best bets for gold in track and field in the Asian Games



Source: PATAFA

John Lozada and Eduardo Buenavista will compete for the first time in the Asian Games. Based on their performances in international competitions, Buenavista has a 60-percent chance of finishing first. Lozada has a 35-percent chance. In 16 tournaments overseas, Buenavista placed first 10 times. Lozada finished first nine times out of 27 international races.

MR Cuello, PDI Research

A24

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2002

FOUR DIGIT

Luzon 1 4 7 2
(In exact order)
Vis-Min 9 0 5 5

SPORTS

MEGALOTTO 6/45

30 26 1 2 14 17

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Associate Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

SUERTRES 6 1 6

Buenavista to skip 'steeple'

By Roy Luarda

EDUARDO "Little Dynamo" Buenavista will skip his favorite 3,000m steeplechase in the Asian Games to boost his medal chances in the 10,000m and the 5,000m runs.

The national coaching staff, in consultation with Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok, reached this tactical decision yesterday after evaluating Buenavista's physical condition and clocking in his recent 3,000m

steeplechase stint in Sri Lanka.

Completing the track and field team are Asian Grand Prix silver medalist John Lozada in the 800m, Christabel Martes, Lerma Gabito, Marella Torres, Ernie Candelario, Sean Guevarra, Roy Vence, Allan Ballester, Jimar Aing, Joebert Delicano and Rodrigo Tanuan.

Although the 4-foot-11 Buenavista, who earned the



BUENAVISTA

moniker "Vertek" after incurring an injury while doing the vertical flip, won the 3,000m steeplechase in the Asian Grand Prix Manila leg in May, the coaching staff agreed that he could have a hard time against the two Qataris entered in Busan, South Korea's second

largest city.

The two finished 1-2 in the recent Sri Lanka Asian Athletic Association Championships where

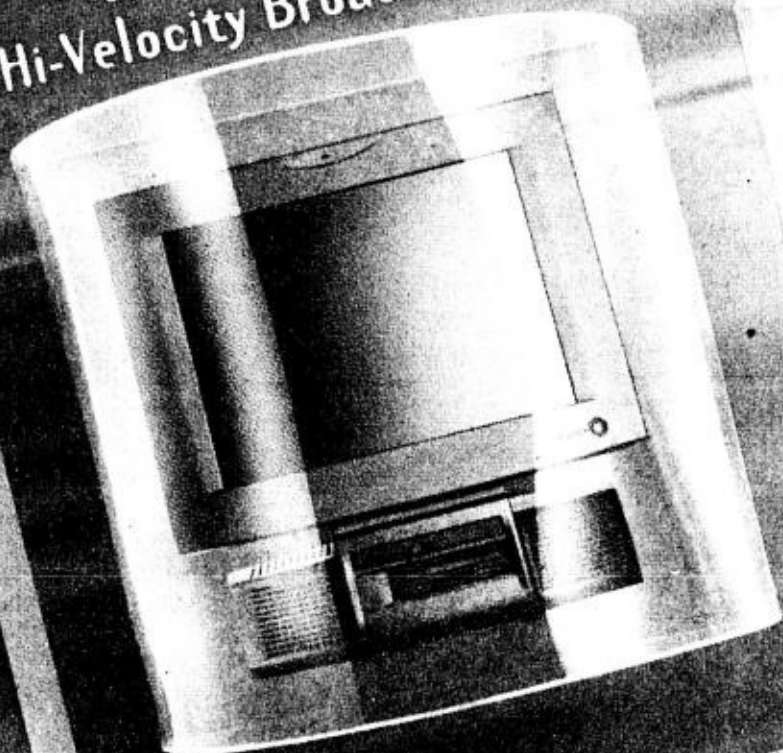
Buenavista had a close view of the winning Qataris.

Still recuperating from a knee injury, Buenavista only competed in the 5,000m run in Colombo where he landed sixth.

"This is basically a coaching strategy. Unlike in the steeplechase, Buenavista need not jump in the 10,000m and the 5,000m, so there'll be less pressure on his knees," said Go, adding that the track and field schedule would also make it hard for Buenavista to run in all three events.

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SATURDAY,
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A25

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

'Give us a piece of the sidewalk'

By Agnes E. Donato

"ALL WE want is a small part of the sidewalk."

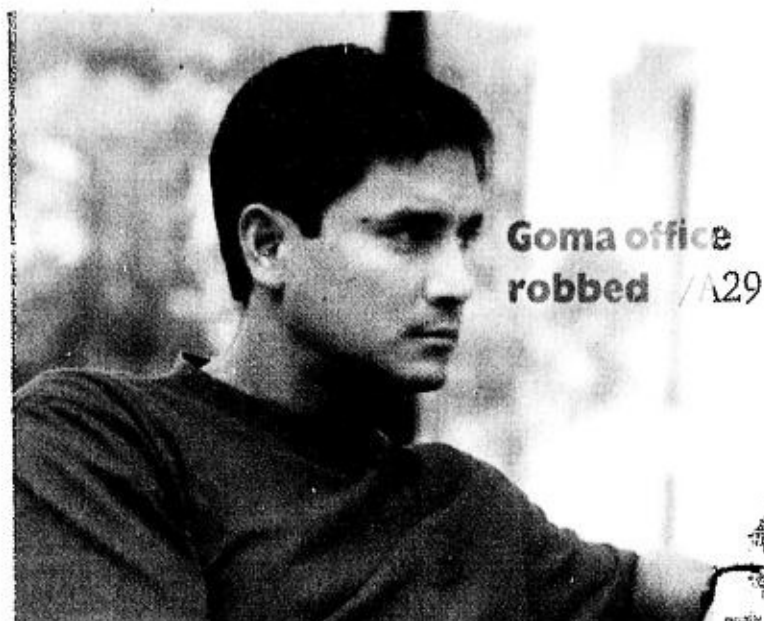
This was the plea of about 150 Metro Manila vendors who gathered yesterday in a summit at the University of the Philippines parish in Diliman, Quezon City.

The vendors from different parts of the metropolis formed the Metro Manila Vendors Association (MMVA) which they said aims "to

resist (Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani) Fernando's employment of high-handed method of state terror in driving out vendors from the sidewalks."

The new association also released a manifesto that called on Fernando to stop all demolitions of sidewalk stalls until the MMDA has found "a comprehensive solution" to the dislocation of vendors that the demolitions would bring about.

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Probers trace vehicle of slain German

By Alcuin Papa

QUEZON City police are hot on the trail of the killers of German consultant Mirko Mueller who was found dead on Thursday inside his Corinthian Gardens home in Quezon City.

Chief Insp. Rodolfo Jaraza, chief of the Central Police District's homicide section, told the INQUIRER they have traced the killers' vehicle which the suspects had taken from Mueller.

Jaraza said two or three of the suspects, reported to be male prostitutes, have gone into hiding somewhere in Central Luzon.

He also revealed that investigators found food and drinks at the crime scene, indicating that Mueller and the suspects had a party before the murder.

Jaraza said his team had already questioned Mueller's maid, Mena Vicenta, and a friend of the victim, who is also a foreigner. Policemen are now following up leads which the two provided the police, Jaraza said.

Security guards of the posh subdivision told investigators that the suspects were on board Mueller's vehicle, a Nissan Sentra, when they left the subdivision about 1 a.m. on Thursday.

According to police reports, Vicenta reported for work about 7:30 a.m. that day and found the body of Mueller in the garden. The victim, who reportedly worked as a consultant for Meralco, had been a resident of the village for the past five years.

Crime scene experts said they found a stab wound in the victim's neck and lacerations on his face. His hands and feet were bound, and police said the suspects used a dumbbell to hit him.

Aside from the car, the suspects also took Mueller's VCD player and cell phone.

MMDA upgrades Pasong Tamo road

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has started works from Arnaiz Avenue to Herrera Street in Pasong Tamo in Makati City.

The MMDA said the project aims to improve traffic and reduce congestion in arterial roads through sidewalk improvements and the upgrading of existing drainage systems to prevent seasonal flooding between the Makati Cinema Square and Urban Avenue.

The Pasong Tamo rehabilitation, which is part of the secondary roads program of the World Bank-funded Metro Manila Urban Transport Integration Project, will involve reclaiming and clearing pedestrian sidewalks of obstructions, raising the curbside elevation, installing pedestrian barriers, designating loading and unloading bays for public transport, declogging the drainage system, constructing waiting sheds and landscaping.

The project is meant to assist the Philippine government in enhancing the economic productivity and quality of life of Metro Manila residents.

The project is expected to be finished within the next 15 months. The program will also do civil works on D. Romualdez, Legarda, M. de la Fuente, Jacobo, and Tayuman in Manila; Arnaiz and Gil Puyat avenues in Makati City; Quezon Boulevard, Banaue, Quirino Highway, and Don Mariano Marcos Avenue Extension in Quezon City; 10th Avenue in Caloocan City; Pedro Gil and New Panaderos in Sta. Ana, Manila; South Superhighway in Taguig and Pasay; and the East/West service road in Parañaque City and Muntinlupa City.

'Give us ...'

From page A25

The vendors said they were aware that sidewalk vending was against the law, but they maintained that the government could not blame them for this.

"Indeed, we may have wittingly or unwittingly violated laws in the process of our eking out a living," the association said. "But we have sinned not because we are habitual sinners, but mainly because we have been forced by circumstances."

"For people like us, sidewalk vending is an economic necessity, not a travesty of laws," it said.

Melly Auza, a member of the Pasay Christian-Muslim Vendors Association, said she and her husband have not been able to work for about a month now.

A mother of six, Auza related that she was already getting desperate because she did not know how to support the studies of her children, four of whom are still in college.

She said that she and her fellow vendors at the LRT station in Pasay City had repeatedly tried to put up stalls but that MMDA men would always arrive to drive them away.

"It's becoming routine already," she said. "We have no choice but to run every time the MMDA comes. Before, we could go to the nearby mall when the police would run after us. But now, the mall guards would not let us in anymore, supposedly on Fernando's order."

The MMVA maintained that it was willing to cooperate with the MMDA, if only the agency would treat vendors with more dignity.

It said the MMDA should institutionalize a policy of negotiation instead of using force in dealing with vendors.

"If the government can afford to talk with armed rebels in the hope of ending conflict, why can't it do that with us vendors," it said.

Fear flows along the riverside

By Christian V. Esguerra

ABOUT 10,000 families on the Pasig River bank have expressed fear that they are next on the list of Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, who is now on a relentless campaign to clear the sidewalks of Metro Manila of illegal vendors.

The Urban Poor Associates (UPA) yesterday said the squatters had obtained a copy of a letter from

the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) calling for the immediate demolition of squatter shanties along the polluted river.

Fernando and Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin are co-chairs of the PRRC.

A copy of the letter dated Aug. 13 showed PRRC executive director Bingle Gutierrez informing Peter Fedon, director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Social Services Division, that the commission is "seriously

considering...the clearing of the riverbanks and relocation as the priority (activities) to be undertaken immediately."

"(The) government has exhausted all possible relocation options preferred by the affected families, particularly in-city relocation, and will now proceed with the remaining options," the letter said. "There is a need to already show political will at this point of the project."

president of the Ugnayang Lakas ng mga Nakatira sa Ilog Pasig, said the letter called for the immediate eviction of at least 10,000 of the estimated 50,000 families living along the Pasig River.

"Fernando's move against the poor is not in harmony with what President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo plans for the poor (near) the Pasig River," said Ted Anana, UPA assistant coordinator.

"He will put at risk (other) international bank loans the gov-

ernment (would ask)," he added.

By displacing the squatter families, Fernando would jeopardize the P8.9-billion loan the ADB had granted for the rehabilitation of the Pasig River, the UPA claimed.

The group said the rehabilitation plan approved by the ADB calls for the establish-

ment of urban renewal areas to provide on-

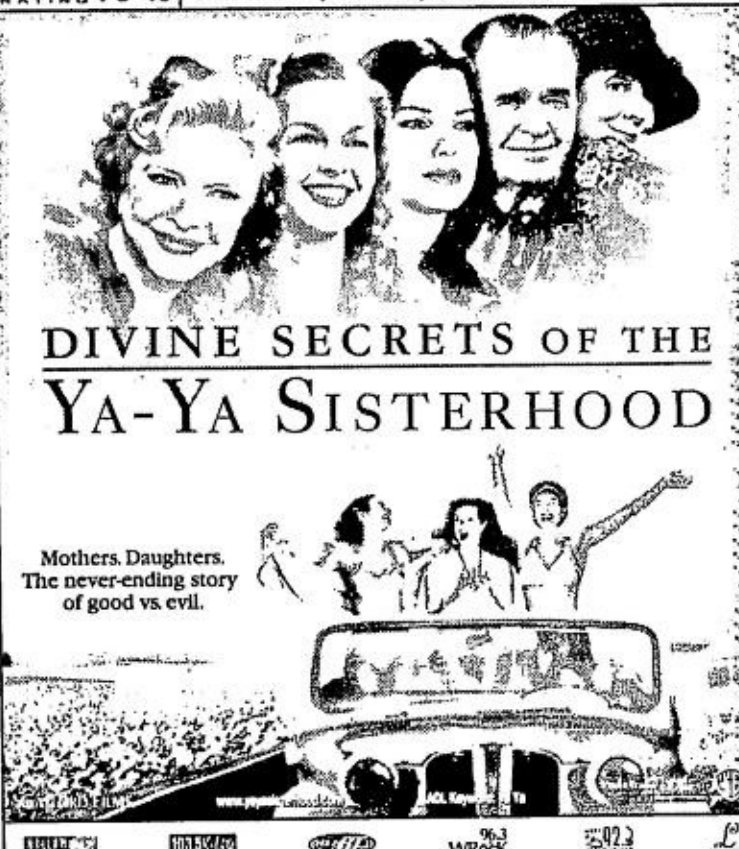
site relocation to affected residents.

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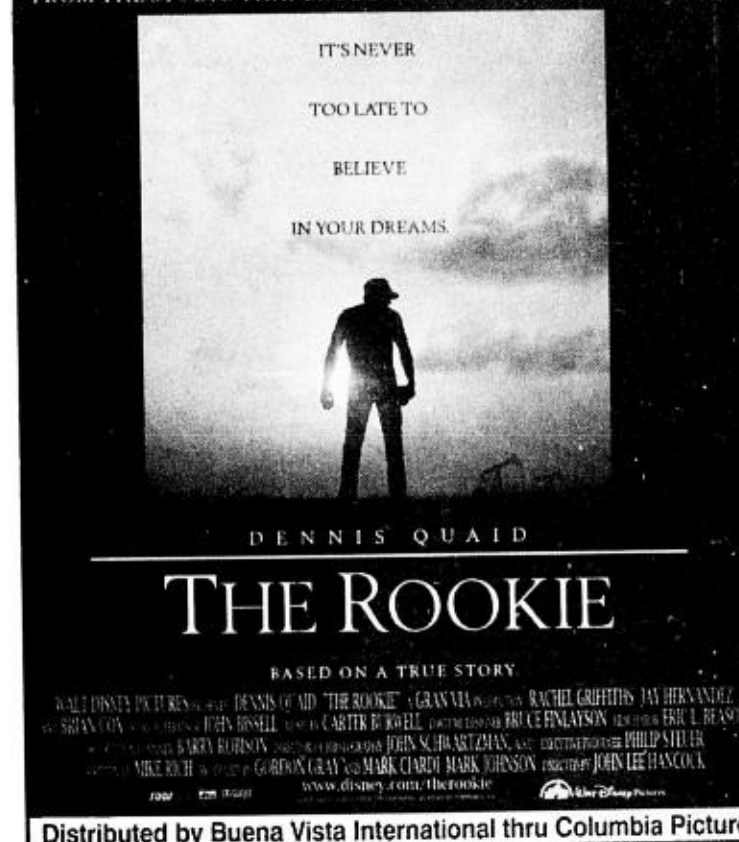
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HIGH EXPLOSIVE

Lucio Tan's unsolicited advice

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



A LOT of pressures are being brought to bear on President Macapagal-Arroyo in her governance. The pressures are as varied as the groups making them.

The President should do this, the President should do that. She shouldn't do this, she shouldn't do that.

The biggest and most influential pressure group is the Catholic Church which wants to have a say on issues vital to the nation, such as population control and the death penalty.

We, of course, know the Church's stand on population control: no population control. Let the population increase by leaps and bounds; to heck with poverty and the consequent high crime rate.

And now, the Church wants the Arroyo administration to postpone indefinitely all executions of death convicts.

The President earlier granted a reprieve to three convicted rapists in deference to the birthday of Jaime Cardinal Sin.

If she grants a reprieve to death convicts in deference to the birthdays of each member of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, she might as well scrap the death penalty by commuting death sentences to life imprisonment. There are very many bishops.

Levity aside, the death penalty should be maintained. There

should no longer be reprieves or a moratorium on the execution of death convicts.

This will send a message to criminals that the Macapagal administration is not wishy-washy in dealing with high crime.

Kidnapping is a high crime and should be dealt with severely.

The more convicted kidnappers the President orders executed, the clearer is the message to would-be kidnappers and other lowlife.

The death penalty was restored in 1994 to put fear in the hearts of people with criminal minds.

To the Catholic Church: Please don't meddle in the affairs of government.

Instead, the Church should concentrate its efforts in making better Christians of its members, including some priests.

It should follow Christ's injunction: Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.

Instead of condemning billionaire tycoon Lucio Tan for his

dire predictions for the country—no growth for the next 100 years, a foreign exchange rate of P120 to the dollar in the next four to six years—why don't our leaders do something to prove him wrong?

Everybody who's somebody in the government is angry with Tan for telling the painful truth—that too much politics is behind our turtle-paced economic progress.

If our leaders would only set aside politics for just a day and seriously go about the business of governance, we'd be much better off than we are now.

The 2004 elections are still way down the road, but people are already thinking, talking, sleeping and eating politics.

Politics is given preferential news treatment over how the economy is faring. Politics is the talk in coffee shops and at dinner tables instead of how to get rid of corruption in government.

Will movie idol Fernando Poe Jr. run for president? If he will, who will be his running mate? How high or low is GMA's popularity rating? Will Panfilo Lacson also run for president? Who will be GMA's running mate?

Wala na bang ibang topic kundi pulitika?

What the billionaire businessman, who started out as a simple "magbobote" (bottle peddler), wants is for Filipinos to focus on how to im-

prove our quality of life rather than on whom to elect as our local and national leaders even when elections are still years away.

Politics is making Filipinos poorer. The economy, he said, cannot catch up with the growing population.

What's wrong with an advice, albeit unsolicited, from a man who rose from poverty? We should even thank him.

And now, for the "Who's This" corner:

Yes, who's this Cabinet member who boasts to his friends how he does it in bed with each of his many sexual conquests?

Included in this aging lothario's list of victims are his secretaries, his researchers, other office staff, his former students and outside dealmakers.

"*Talagang itong si (the official's nickname), binibisto kung sino ang kanyang mga nayari (This guy exposes the women he has conquered),*" one of his friends told me over lunch.

"*At sinasabi pa niya ang mga posisyon nila sa kama (And he tells us how he and his sexual partner did it),*" the official's friend added.

This official also boasts of being well endowed, according to another friend of his.

However, I heard differently from one of his former "victims." The woman says the guy has a small sex organ and is a clumsy lover.

Man nabbed selling fake dollar bills to NBI undercover

By Jerome Aning

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation on Thursday announced the arrest of a man who tried to sell 105 pieces of bogus \$100 bills in Ermita, Manila last week.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco

said Victoriano de Guzman, alias Felicito Corong, a resident of Marcelo Street, Maysan, Valenzuela City, tried to sell the bills for P80,000 to an undercover member of the bureau's anti-fraud and computer crime division.

Wycoco said Victoriano was arrested on Aug. 22 as soon as he handed the bundle of counterfeit cash to the NBI agent inside the suspect's car, which was parked on United Nations Avenue.

Aside from the fake bills, the NBI men also seized two fake

land titles, pieces of a survey plan and two driver's licenses belonging to the suspect but which were under different names.

Wycoco said the bureau later secured a certification from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas declaring that the bills were fake.



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Goma office robbed

By Alcuin Papa

ROBBERS broke into a promotions agency office owned by actor Richard Gomez and stole P275,000 worth of computers, police reported yesterday.

Police said the theft was discovered at 6:58 a.m. yesterday and was reported to the Cubao police station by Marilyn Nunez, operations manager of Gomez's Harte Best Entertainment.

Investigators said they believe the thieves broke into the office, located on Matipuno Street in Horseshoe Village in Barangay Horseshoe, Quezon City, between Aug. 19 and Aug. 30.

Nunez told police she closed and padlocked the office on Aug. 19. But when she returned yesterday, she found that a window of the office had been broken.

Among the items found missing were an Apple IMac computer worth

P100,000, a personal computer worth P150,000 and a printer worth P25,000.

Nunez was not able to explain to police why it took that long for the theft to be discovered.

Gomez had the case transferred to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group National Capital Region office in Camp Crame.

The case is now under SPO4 Simplicio Langisan of the CIDG-NCR.

5 nabbed, fake drugs seized

By Jerome Aning

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents arrested five businessmen and seized some P200,000 worth of counterfeit pharmaceutical products during a raid in Pampanga last week.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco identified those arrested as Nick and Janeth Navarro, Jayson Canlas, Rommel Casupan and Alfredo Baluyut, all of Mabalacat and San Fernando City, Pampanga.

Wycoco said the legal counsels of Roche (Phils.) Inc., GlaxoSmithKline Philippines Inc., Pfizer Inc. and Wyeth Philippines Inc. sought the NBI's assistance to crack down on the alleged unauthorized sale and distribution of unregistered pharmaceutical products and counterfeit drugs and medicines, particularly in Pampanga.

Head Agent Rafael Zagors of the NBI's intellectual property rights division conducted

surveillance operations and "test-buys" to confirm the complaint.

On Aug. 22, the NBI men arrested the suspects as soon as they handed over the fake drugs to agents posing as customers.

Authorities also seized brand name tablets such as Viagra, Valium, Euglocon, Zantac, Amoxil, Terramycin, Trosyd, Ponstan, Clusivol, Chloromycetin and Diabinese, Wycoco said.

The NBI also found out that the certificates allegedly issued to the suspects for the sale and distribution of the products were fake.

Moreover, the documents did not bear the required registration number of the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

Wycoco said charges of violation of Republic Act No. 3720 on the sale of unregistered drugs and RA 8203 on the sale of counterfeit drugs were filed against the suspects before the city prosecutor of San Fernando.

New LRT tickets

THE LIGHT Rail Transit Authority will issue new stored value (SV) tickets starting Sept. 1, 2002, to make them more affordable to commuters, particularly students, LRTA Administrator Teddy Cruz Jr. said.

The new SV tickets will be good for five rides and will be valid within six months from the time of purchase.

"We want to provide commuters, particularly students, a more affordable alternative to the existing SV ticket," Cruz said.

The SV tickets will now be offered at P60 and P120. Single journey (SJ) tickets will continue to be sold at P12.

Cruz said holders of the P60 SV tickets are also entitled to a last ride bonus (LRB) even if the remaining balance is less than P12.

Bullet in the buttocks for suspect

A MAN who engaged policemen in a gunfight in Makati City yesterday landed in hospital with a bullet in the buttocks.

Feliciano J. Untal, of Bernardino Street in Laperal Compound, fired a homemade shotgun or sumpak at P03 Ronaldo Villarando and P02 Art Grabillo who had come to arrest him for complaints of grave threats, according to police.

Villarando shot back and hit Untal in the leg and buttocks, said police.

The police officers arrived in Untal's house at 1 a.m. yesterday after Bantay

Bayan tanod Reynaldo Mendoza and his wife Roushelle, also of Laperal compound, complained to police that Untal had poked a .38 gun at them.

In his affidavit, Villarando said Untal had run away after he was hit and left his homemade shotgun behind, while the policemen left and called for backup. But when the policemen returned, Untal's sumpak was already missing, Villarando said.

Untal was brought to the Ospital ng Makati for treatment.

Leila B. Salaverria

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A CASHIER was killed when a dump truck hit the car in which he was riding yesterday morning in Quezon City.

Cashier Joseph Jarabata, 25, of North Cubao, Quezon City, died from head injuries at the Dr. Jose Delgado Medical Center, police said. His driver Ian Basil, 25, is still under observation in the same hospital.

The Central Police District Traffic Sector 4 said the accident occurred at about 3 a.m. along Timog Avenue in front of the GMA-7 network when Jarabata and his driver's Mitsubishi Colt Sedan (PAJ-407) was hit by the dump truck. Alcuin Papa

Cashier killed as car collides with truck in Quezon City

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1:30 RING 1
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Greenbelt 1 - Cinema 2

10:30 DOG DAYS
1:30 THE CARRIERS ARE WAITING
3:30 CALIBNESS
6:30 PEONY FAMILION
8:30 RING 1
11:30 RING 2



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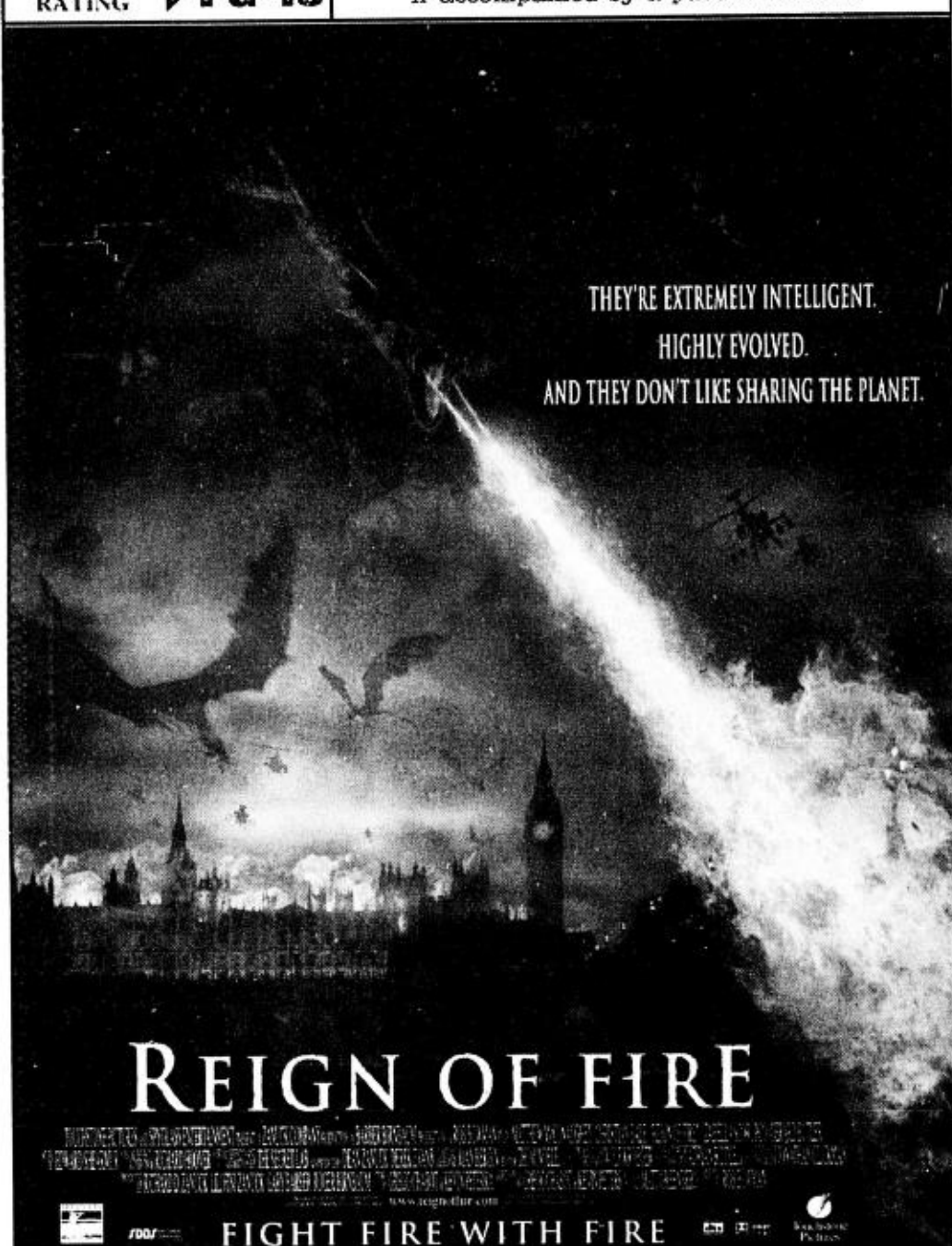
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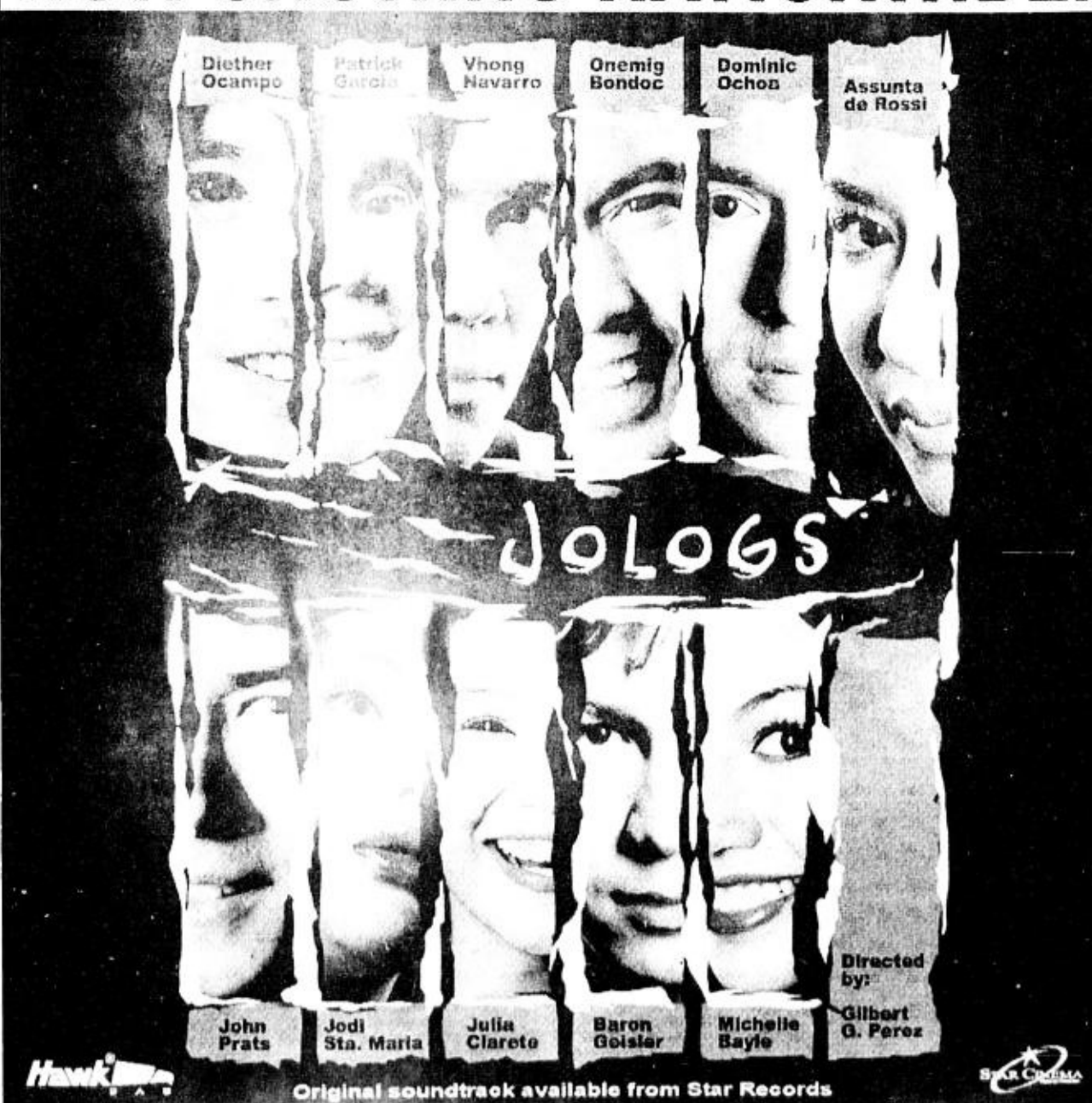
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'Ban political turncoats'

By Leila B. Salaverria

POLITICAL turncoats might be banned from running in elections after they have switched sides. The Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Laban (PDP-Laban) has proposed a residency rule that will keep the turncoats out of the running six years after changing parties.

Jejomar Binay, PDP-Laban national president, said in a statement yesterday that turncoats, or politicians who easily switch political parties, taint the image of politics and that his proposal would introduce meaningful changes. He added that if implemented, his proposal would be more effective than an outright ban of turncoats.

He also branded the practice of changing political parties at the drop of a hat as "an opportunism that has created not a multiparty state, as some people are led to believe, but a spasmodic single-party government that changes its color with every change of the president."

Binay said that the government should subsidize political parties because it would serve as an equalizer for the parties.

"It is about time we seriously consider campaign funds being provided by the national government to legitimate and duly accredited political parties, so that election results do not become donor driven, or automatically favor the richest, but rather the best," he said.

He added that politicians should start acting on what they say in order to salvage Philippine politics' deplorable image.

Senator Aquilino Pimentel founded the Partidong Demokratikong Pilipino in the early 1980s. In 1982, the party merged with the Lakas ng Bayan (Laban), led by former Sen. Jovito Salonga and the late speaker Ramon Mitra.

Repeal FM decree, says councilor

A MANILA councilor yesterday asked Congress to repeal a 1977 presidential order that deprived the city of a 2,000-hectare property it used to own in Marikina City.

Councilor Don Ramon Bagatsing said Letter of Instruction No. 619, signed by the late President Marcos on Oct. 24,

1977, transferred the Boso-Boso property in Marikina to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

The 4th district alderman said the LOI is "clearly unjustifiable and arbitrary as

it deprived the city of real property it lawfully owned."

He said Manila's ownership of Boso-Boso is covered by Original Certificate Title No. 539 of Book A-6 of the registry of deeds of Rizal

province.

He said the property could help address Manila's housing needs, with the city's government employees, policemen and informal settlers as beneficiaries. **Jerome Aning**

OPENS SEPTEMBER 4!

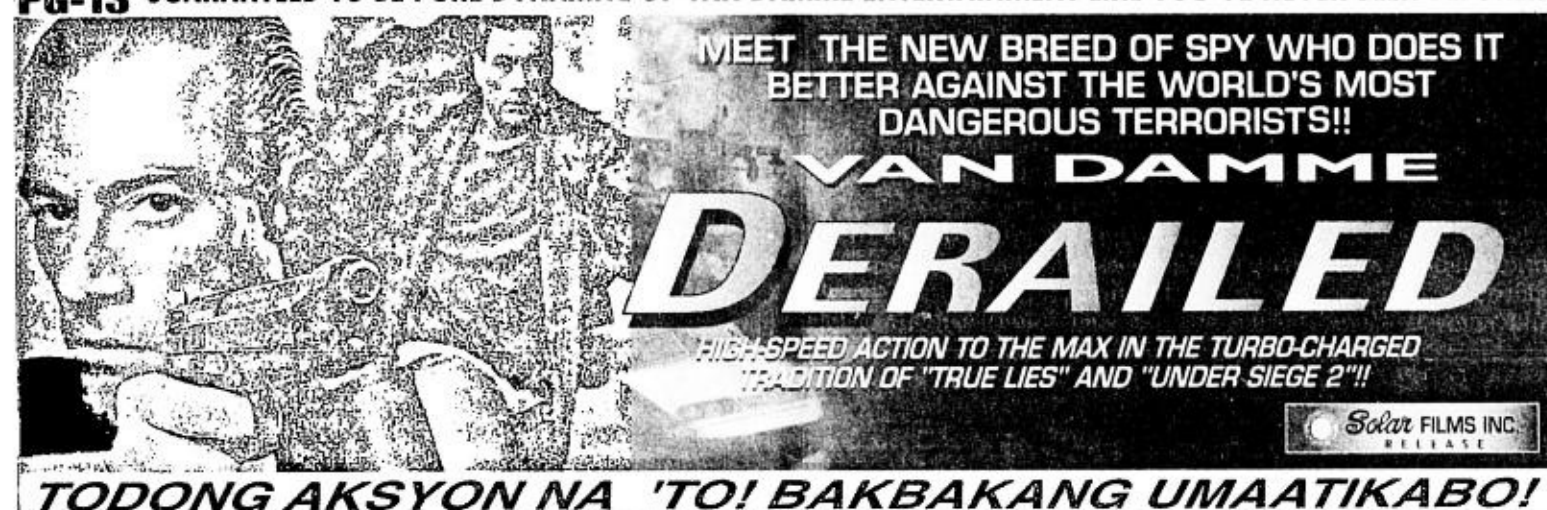
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	UNFAITHFUL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	DERAILED
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SIGNS
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FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
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ODEON	DERAILED
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ROBEN	GAMITAN
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	K-PAX / ALL ABOUT BETY AMANTE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	GAMITAN
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REMAR-2	GAMITAN

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C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

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CINEMA-1	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
CINEMA-3	JOLGOS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-5 (DOLBY)	GAMITAN
CINEMA-6	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-7	INSOMNIA
CINEMA-8	JOLGOS
CINEMA-9 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AUSTIN POWERS
CINEMA-11 (DOLBY)	SPIRIT
CINEMA-12	SIGNS
CINEMA-14	DERAILED
CINEMA-15	JOLGOS

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-2	SPIRIT
CINEMA-3	AUSTIN POWERS
CINEMA-4	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-5	DERAILED
CINEMA-6	SIGNS

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

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2 TRIPLE X	2 UNFAITHFUL	2 MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002	2 SIGNS	2 AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER
3 AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER	3 DERAILED	3 GARY V: HITS @ ONSTAGE - SEP. 6, 20, 26 & 27	3 ABOUT A BOY	3 TRIPLE X
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SATURDAY,
AUGUST 31, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

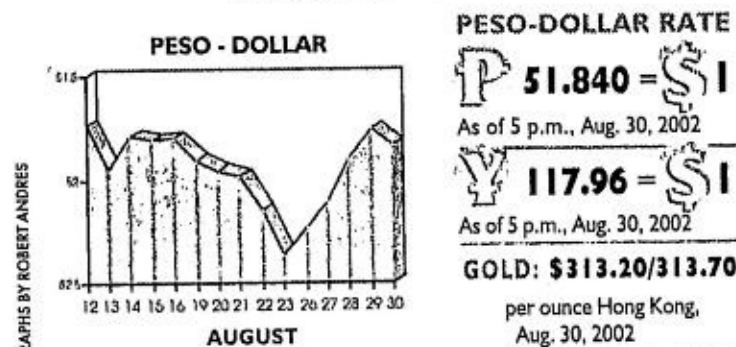
Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

B1



Gov't debt balloons to P2.65T in June

INDICATORS CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET

Shares down slightly

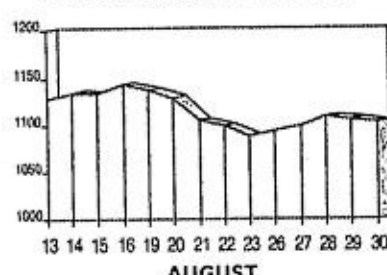
SHARES closed a shade lower in light trade yesterday as investors shrugged off a better-than-expected economic growth performance in the second quarter and focused on short-term gains.

Traders said investors took back profits from selected blue chips, with the lack of fresh developments keeping market players sidelined.

PLDT led the market lower, sliding 2.56 percent or P7.50 to P285. "The market encountered some resistance at the 1,110 level and turnover was low. It only reflects that people are not positive despite the good GDP result," said Henry Ong, vice president for sales at KGI Securities. "It also reflects the market psychology that investors are in just for the short-term. They take advantage of good news to cash in on short-term gains." The government on Thursday announced that gross domestic product in the second quarter reached 4.5 percent year on year, the highest since the third quarter of 1997.

The Philippine stock index slid 2.60 points or 0.24 percent at 1,103.36 points after trading in a tight range of a mere six points during the session. Turnover narrowed to P195.18 million from Thursday's P295.47 million. Losers were in near equilibrium with gainers, 28 to 27, while 37 issues were unchanged.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S public debt rose sharply in June to P2.65 trillion, up 17.2 percent from P2.26 trillion a year ago on account of aggressive foreign and local borrowings.

Data from the Bureau of Treasury showed that the national debt grew by 2.7 percent or P70.2 billion from the previous month's level of P2.56 trillion following brisk borrowings from the foreign and local markets in June.

The government had been raising funds actively to finance a budget deficit that was now estimated to grow to more than P160 billion against a full-year target of P130 billion. As of July, the deficit had ballooned to P133 billion.

Much-criticized for the rising level of public debt in proportion to the size of the Philippine economy, government officials stressed that 90 percent of the country's debts were to mature in

more than five years and only 10 percent would be due in a year.

Domestic debts went up 3.5 percent or by P46.7 billion to P1.398 trillion in June against May while foreign debt rose by P23.5 billion or 1.9 percent to P1.252 trillion from the previous month's level.

Borrowings from the local market went up by 22.5 percent against the previous year's P1.142 trillion while the foreign debt grew by 11.9 percent from P1.118 trillion in June 2001.

The Treasury said the \$300-million, seven-year global bond issue and the P62.9 billion in proceeds from the three- and five-year retail bond float boosted the

government's coffers in June.

A treasury official said nearly a third of the funds from the retail bond issue was used to pay for maturing debts, thus only P46.7 billion was reflected in the debt stock as of June.

The public debt as of June did not include P498.41 billion in contingent debts of the national government. This amount grew by P12.17 billion or 2.5 percent from the May 2002 level because of increased foreign contingent debts.

A weaker peso in June compared to May pushed the valuation of foreign borrowings up.

The government had used a foreign exchange average of P50.50 to a dollar in computing its obligations in June compared to an average of P49.90 the previous month and P52.35 a year ago. Despite a slight increase in in-

terest rates as reflected by the benchmark 91-day treasury bill yield in June to 4.778 percent from a historic low of 4.299 percent in late April, the government felt the domestic market still offered a reasonable lending rate.

The debt stock released by the Treasury included only the government's local and foreign borrowings and not the external liabilities of the private sector unlike the debt stock statistics released periodically by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Domestic and foreign contingent debts amounted to P12.04 billion and P486.37 billion, respectively, as of June.

These are borrowings that the government assumes each time state agencies and private sector companies with sovereign-backed loans fail to pay their obligations.

RP readies major campaign to woo investors

ECONOMIC managers will double as salesmen next month in a series of briefings and marketing blitzes in the local and foreign markets to drum up the achievements of the Macapagal administration and entice foreign investors to again consider the Philippines as a destination.

First stop is an economic briefing for local investors and analysts on Monday, Sept. 2.

On Sept. 9 and 10, Trade Secretary Mar Roxas and SEC Chair Lilia Bautista will lead a team of government and private sector leaders on an equities investment blitz in Hong Kong and Singapore.

Joining the equities roadshow are officials from eight blue chip

listed companies—Ayala Corp., Jollibee Foods Corp., Manila Electric Co., Metrobank, Petron Corp., PLDT, San Miguel Corp., and SM Prime.

Credit Lyonnaise Securities Asia and Regis Partners, the former securities company called Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, will sponsor the equities roadshow.

"We would like to attract foreign investors to the local market by informing them of developments in the SEC as well as addressing their concerns with previous stock market scandals like BW Resources," said Corazon Guidote, executive director of the country's Investment Relations Office or IRO.

Guidote added that the Philip-

pine team would like to rekindle interest among foreign investors and possibly attract funds that were coming out of the United States following the wave of corporate scandals in America.

"For now, the confidence is still low but we would like to change that, we would like to reach out to investors, explain the economic numbers, and update them on developments particularly in corporate governance," Guidote said.

She said another series of briefings, this time meant for fixed-income investors, would be conducted from Sept. 23 to 25 in key Asian, Europe, and US markets.

Guidote said she would join Finance Secretary Jose Isidro

Camacho and Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura in briefings before investors in Singapore, London and New York.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza and BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. would tell the Philippine economic story before investors in Hong Kong, London, Milan and Amsterdam.

UBS Warburg, JP Morgan, and Deutsche Bank would sponsor the series of briefings for fixed-income investors.

Guidote said the Philippines would be one of four to be invited to hold a country presentation in the upcoming annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund

RP/B4

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The art of performance



The morning Afta

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

ONE morning after barely four months of operations, the workers of Bataan Polyethylene Corp. woke up jobless. The owners closed down the \$350-million factory.

That's an investment of P17 billion that is now idle. Or maybe P18 billion. Well, it depends on how the exchange rate is doing at the time of day you do the math.

In business, anyway, people also apply feng shui. Whether or not that petrochem factory's designer put a bidet in the middle of the kitchen, I'm not really sure.

For the possible reason, however, I only heard whispers in business circles about the failure of a government policy. It seems imported petrochemicals are flooding the market.

It didn't make sense to run the plant anymore, brand new and efficient though it was. The owners had to take some defensive moves. They decided to cut losses.

Yet they were loaded investors. The majority stockholders of the company were BP Chemical (British), Petronas (Malaysian), and Sumitomo (Japanese).

Look at that! Those are big business names, successful in industrial ventures the world over except, perhaps, here. I don't think it has something to do with toilet position.

MY info is, to reopen the sparkingly new factory, the company is only waiting for a favorable government policy. Hmm. Maybe this year, maybe next year, maybe...

Now I don't want to dash anybody's hope here, but on Jan. 1 next year, our tariff will come crashing down on local industries. They will include the petrochem sector.

Huge tariff cuts are required on us by the Asean Free Trade Agreement, a.k.a Afta, which the Asean members approved one recent polluted morning in Manila.

The economic bigshots of Asean, who probably never ran any business of their own, agreed among themselves to cut tariffs to between zero and 5 percent.

The tariff cut will take place only four months from now. What are we doing about it? Nobody knows. In business, nevertheless, they say we are not ready for it.

We have been searching high and low, for instance, for the so-called safety nets which politicians promised us. Maybe they are there, and we just cannot see them.

BREAKTIME



Conrado R. Banal III

The invisible safety nets were the reason industrial and agricultural workers held protest rallies during the Asean meeting here. It's not that they didn't want Joey for Kris.

FOR the tariff cut will cost us a lot of jobs. Asean members are our competitors. We all make the same goods, export to the same countries, and eat rice for midnight snack.

Of course the tariff cut looks good on paper. Supposedly, it helps Asean members to buy and sell things among themselves. It's good for the region's economy.

But who are we kidding here? The other countries in Asean enjoy a very big advantage over us. For one, they have low labor cost. We have only low morale.

Afta is good for us, sure, if our industries can export to other Asean countries. As things stand, our industries cannot. Their industries therefore can only eat ours alive.

Yet our government officials argue that, thanks to Afta, the tariff cut will benefit consumers. All right, let's do everything in the name of consumption!

For that is the most popular argument of all for the tariff cut. It is good for the public. If it is good for the public, it is good enough to get their votes.

Still, before you can become a consumer, you must earn the money, first, by becoming a worker. No job, amigo, no consumption! Unless you are talking of TB!

IN our government's policy, therefore, what is really the topmost of the top priorities—is it consumption or is it production? I'm afraid we have to choose once and for all.

Our own "Plastics King," for instance, is rumored to be closing down his factory in Valenzuela, because it cannot compete with imports from China and Thailand.

Yet other Asean countries bar imports which harm their own industries. Take our

best friend Malaysia. Its government exempted its car industry from Afta.

What do we do? We gave multimillion-peso worth of incentives to an American car company to export cars that would be made here. Today, no wonder, it imports cars from Taiwan.

Moreover, Malaysia is also way ahead of us in the petrochem industry, having set up its plants about 10 years ago. Malaysia kept the tariff on petrochem at 30 percent.

And here what do we do? Well, we show the world that we are better off than Malaysia. We slashed the tariff on petrochem products from anywhere in the world.

Really, we also cut the tariff even for imports from countries outside Afta. It's possible, even with the lethal competition from Asean, our petrochem industry will not die. Maybe our government just want to be sure. Well, for once!

IN other words, even with their fully grown petrochem industries, all other Asean members kept tariff high on imports from non-Afta countries like South Korea.

South Korea, by the way, is another best friend of ours, because its petrochem companies love us so much, they dump cheap products on us. Smuggled, of course!

Anyway, the petrochem industries in Asean only have to face up to their competitors in Asean. Well developed and all, they can very well do that.

Here, it's you and me against the world. We slash the tariff on petrochem from countries like South Korea. We must compete against the business gangsters of the world.

Yet ours is only a four-year-old petrochemical sector. This may be good, in terms of technology, because we may have the latest. The devil is in the cost of financing.

Investors, such as those in the closed Bataan Polyethylene, put money in the business, because the government promised to help them years ago.

Today, no wonder, thanks to such a promise, our four petrochem factories are operating at less than half of their rated capacity.

Moreover, together with that plant in Bataan, another company called Philippine Petrochemical Products closed down its factory.

Really, they get by with a little help from the government!

STOCKS	(As of Friday, August 30, 2002)				VOLUME
	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.75	19	18.25	19	355,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43	43.5	42.5	43.5	312,200
China Banking Corp.	610	620	610	620	140
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35	35.7	34	35	334,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28.5	28	28	346,800
Prudential Bank	450	450	450	450	8,400
Philippine National Bank	32	32	32	32	8,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	60,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1170	1180	1170	1180	900
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	100,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	910	915	900	900	750
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	800,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	490	490	485	485	260
Ipeople Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	200,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	2,500,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	292.5	292.5	285	285	102,510
Ivantage Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.5	18.5	18.25	18.25	5,000
Manila Electric Co. B	30.5	30.5	30	30	47,300
Petron Corp.	1.66	1.68	1.64	1.64	675,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	40,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	9,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	40,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	210,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	120,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	25,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	6,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.5	529,900
La Tondela Distillers Inc.	31	31	31	31	20,000
RFM Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	50,000
Swift Food Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	49	49	48.5	49	174,700
San Miguel Corp. B	52.5	52.5	52	52	147,100
Universal Robina Corp.	3.9	3.95	3.9	3.9	51,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	530,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	4,474,000
Abolitz Equity Ventures	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	3,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	140,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	50,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	10,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.14	0.16	0.13	0.16	380,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.235	2,490,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	100,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13	342,100
Ionics Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	85,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	31,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.59	0.61	0.59	0.61	5,000,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	1,000,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.225	0.24	450,000
Musica Corp.	0.15	0.185	0.15	0.185	140,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	300,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
Union Res. & Holdings Co.	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.038	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	30,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.72	80,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.36	0.4	0.36	0.4	2,310,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	30,000
Manila Jockey Club	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	2,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.12	0.15	0.12	0.15	110,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	22.75	22.75	22.5	22.5	22,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	7,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	700
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	7,464,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	210,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.22	1.16	1.22	8,093,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.98	2	1.98	2	599,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.155	0.155	120,000
SM Development Corp.	0.93	0.99	0.93	0.99	600,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	180,000
UrbanCorp.Realty Dev. Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	1,700,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	250,000
Ormico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	2,000,000
Phillex Mining Corp. A	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.33	70,000
Phillex Mining Corp. B	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	500,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	14,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	10,000,000
Pacific	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	3,400,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	1,000,000

DISCLOSURES

KEPPEL Philippines Holdings Inc. approved its manual on corporate governance and added that the authorized signatory for all matters pertaining to the manual would be Teo Soon Hoe.

KEPPEL Philippines Marine Inc. bought 2,879 of its own shares at P0.39 per share.

DIZON Copper-Silver Mines Inc. clarified that the board of directors has yet to decide on whether the firm will revive its mining operations in Zambales.

MBI Inc. will hold its stockholders' meeting in the last quarter of the year on a date to be fixed by the board of directors.

FILINVEST Land Inc. announced the appointment of Apollo Escarez as assistant corporate secretary.

PHILIPPINE Racing Club Inc. reduced the number of its listed shares by 471 in order to reconcile its records with the company's stock transfer agent.

WISE Holdings Inc. appointed Myrna Trinidad as its compliance officer.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

Aug. 30, 2002					
Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US\$	Foreign currency in Peso	
United States	Dollar	1.015228	1.000000	51.8090	
Japan	Yen	0.008590	0.008461	0.4384	
United Kingdom	Pound	1.572386	1.548800	80.2418	
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130159	0.128207	6.6423	
Switzerland	Franc	0.679491	0.669299	34.6757	
Canada	Dollar	0.651748	0.641972	33.2599	
Singapore	Dollar	0.580163	0.571461	29.6068	
Australia	Dollar	0.559478	0.551086	28.5512	
Bahrain	Dinar	2.693199	2.652801	137.4390	
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.270721	0.266660	13.8154	
Brunei	Dollar	0.578807	0.570125	29.5376	
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000115	0.000113	0.0059	
Thailand	Baht	0.024063	0.023702	1.2280	
UAE	Dirham	0.276425	0.272279	14.1065	
Korea	Won	0.000850	0.000837	0.0434	
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.985000	51.0319	
Argentina	Real	0.282008	0.277778	14.3914	
Brazil	Real	0.324251	0.319387	16.5471	
Denmark	Kroner	0.134612	0.132593	6.8695	
India	Ruppee	0.020958	0.020644	1.0695	
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.267201	0.263193	13.6358	
Mexico	New Peso	0.102466	0.100929	5.2290	
New Zealand	Dollar	0.475027	0.467902	24.2415	
Norway	Kroner	0.135223	0.133195	6.9007	
Pakistan	Ruppee	0.017149	0.016892	0.8752	
South Africa	Rand	0.095518	0.094085	4.9552	
Sweden	Kroner	0.109114	0.107477	5.5683	
Syria	Pound	0.022969	0.022624	1.1721	
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029790	0.029343	1.5202	
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000724	0.000713	0.0369	

The amazing Mr. Bui Van Ngo

and his machines, and his paintings, and his garden, and his...

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY DANILO DE AUSTRIA CONSUMIDO

DON JAIME Zobel de Ayala, probably the most famous Filipino industrialist-artist, should meet Mr. Bui Van Ngo of Ho Chi Minh City. Don Jaime for sure would be amazed how Bui, almost unschooled and unclothed compared to the Don, became a multi-millionaire businessman under the socialist society of Vietnam.

Don Jaime, even more surely, would have goose pimples once he sees the giant murals that Bui is simultaneously working on and his more than 650 other paintings, and would be honored by the fact that he is among the very few people in the world at the moment allowed to look at Bui's works.

And if the Don is fond of gardens, he would find in Bui's sprawling bonsai and lotus farm the Zen that the Makati millionaire-photographer seems to be enamored with lately, as he tried to show in his latest photographic exhibition "Don Jaime Zobel de Ayala: Zen and Now." Mr. Bui is a practicing Buddhist who goes about his business in simple slacks, t-shirt and sandals, wears the smile of a monk and has eyes as tranquil as a lotus pond.

THE STORY of Mr. Bui Van Ngo explains how and why the Vietnamese people were able to survive more than 30 years of war with the French and the Americans, defeat the two superpowers, and went on to rebuild their country. Vietnam now has one of the fastest growing economies in Asia and the world. It has now overtaken Thailand and China to become the second largest rice exporting country in the world, next to the United States. It has also become the world's largest coffee exporting country, after Brazil.

Bui Van Ngo, who never went beyond primary school, was born from a family of mechanics. As a kid he worked day and night at the small family shop in Saigon. At 17, he taught himself how to draw and paint. In 1948, at 18 he was employed in the French Navy as a mechanical draftsman, but left two years after as the Vietnamese war for liberation from the French raged. He said that it was at the French Navy where he learned not only how to fix machines but also how to design and make them.

He went into brick-making business and in 1955 he set up his own machine shop, where he put together a coconut oil extracting machine and an alcohol-making machine out of his own designs. Much later, his shop began manufacturing rice mills and other agricultural machineries. But the war with the French, and later with the Americans, greatly distracted the business that was just about to pick up.

During the socialist unification and takeover of Vietnam in 1976, and as the state took over private enterprises, Bui Van Ngo was made a mere employee in his shop. Yet he did not let go. He worked hard and continued to nurture the shop as if he still owned it. Until the government

relaxed its rules against private business, and allowed the return to private individuals of enterprises except key industries, such as energy and public utilities, that still remain under government control. The business was given back to Van Ngo.

Bui Van Ngo, now 72 years old, is chair and president of the Bui Van Ngo Industrial and Agricultural Machinery Corporation, one of the fastest-growing private enterprises in Vietnam. His company is maker of the Buivanngo agriculture and industrial machines, including a state-of-the-art rice processing

modern agriculture machineries and equipment," he said through an interpreter.

Managed by him and his seven sons and two daughters, only one of whom was able to finish college education, the company manufactures about 500 to 700 machine components annually and now exports complete rice mill plants and agriculture machines to 11 countries since 1997, including the Philippines.



A 5-tonner Buivanngo rice mill that has a milling recovery of about 67 percent.

plant that could rival the best rice mills in the world in terms of efficiency, and costing only a third compared with the Japanese and American made machines.

"Our government is now very supportive to private enterprises engaged in very important activities such as the manufacture of

But the success of the company could be partly attributed to an adventurous Filipino businessman, Joji Co, who "discovered" the family in their small shop in 1997, and coaxed the Buis to export their machines. "The old man, who originally designed the machines, is a mechanical ge-



Mr. Bui Van Ngo with Filipino businessman Joji Co. Behind them is a mural in progress on the ruins of the ancient city of Hue. At left are some of Bui's thousands of bonsai trees.



Mr. Bui and details of his 3 x 20 meter mural "The Tomb of King Tu Duc."



nus. I was awed when I saw their rice milling machines, and immediately ordered one unit," gushed Co, who was then combing war-torn Vietnam and Cambodia for business opportunities.

Co admitted that when he first met Mr. Bui, he thought the old man was just among the hired hands in the factory.

"They didn't know how to export, so I had to teach them the various processes of exporting,"

Bui has meticulously worked on the flaking bark of the trees, the moss crawling on the ancient brick walls and the minutest of other details, revealing a sense of perfectionist discipline that could only emanate from his being a maker of precision machines. Bui's rice mills are fully automated.

In another warehouse are two other murals on the ruins of Hue, which Van Ngo is simultaneously working on. In the same warehouse that also serves as a packing area for the machines bound for export are the stacks of the hundreds of Van Ngo's paintings, and a shop where craftsmen are making giant frames for the murals from design patterns and carvings of the old man.

At the back of the warehouses is another spectacular sight — a huge bonsai farm that includes 200-year old trees and a forest of thousands of miniature trees. Among the prized collections are several mini rain forests, complete with rivers and swamps, designed and developed by amazing old man.

THE DUTCH artist Vincent Van Gogh is said to have sold only one painting during his lifetime. The Vietnamese artist, and gardener, and machine maker Bui Van Ngo doesn't want to sell any of his paintings or his plants, except for his machines. For the latter, he has already sold millions of dollars, making him one

of the emerging class of multi-millionaires in socialist Vietnam, whose near double-digit economic growth is primarily propelled by the booming small and medium-scale private enterprises.

The very few outsiders who were able to see his paintings all agree that Bui Van Ngo, who is ambidextrous with the brush and the palette, could make more money from his art than from his machines. But Van Ngo would not want to sell art. Nor any of his plants. A wealthy German was said to have offered US\$10,000 for one of his bonsais. The old man, like a Buddhist monk, simply smiled off the offer.

When told that the world deserves to see his paintings and his garden, the old man's eyes glowed. He smiled and gestured towards a lotus pond in the middle of his garden and said something to his interpreter. In halting English, the interpreter said that the old man will move his machine plant to a bigger area, a 10 hectare lot, as the business has become bigger each year. In the area where the plant is currently located, near the lotus pond in the middle of the bonsai garden, the interpreter said the old man will build a museum where people could freely enjoy his art.

"Mr. Bui wants to be remembered," said the interpreter, "as a simple mechanic, as a gardener and perhaps as a painter."

MEANTIME in the Philippines, businessman Joji Co, who is also president of the Philippine Confederation of Grains Associations (Philcongrains), is still trying to convince government agriculture planners and policy makers that the country could very well reduce if not eliminate its huge rice imports bill if it modernizes the grains milling industry. Co argues that by merely increasing rice milling recovery from the national average of 63 percent to 67 percent, the output of Bui's machines, there will be no more need to import rice.

But government seems to be listening elsewhere. Like to ideas that rice farming should be given less importance because it is no longer globally competitive and that Filipino farmers might as well become rice importers.



An ambidextrous painter, Mr. Bui used his left hand on this one.

Co said. Now the company exports to as far as Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina, and even to countries which have their own well-developed rice milling machine manufacturing industries, like Australia, Korea, Thailand and Taiwan.

Buivanngo rice mills, according to Co, has a milling recovery of about 67 percent, besting all other machines in the market.

Co, whose Alheed International is exclusive distributor of Buivanngo rice mills in the Philippines, was awed even more when he discovered the huge paintings of Bui Van Ngo stacked in between crates of machines about to be shipped abroad. One huge painting entitled *The Tomb of King Tu Duc* in the ancient city of Hue, a mural three meters high and 20 meters long, spanned an entire warehouse in the company plant in An Lac, a town just outside Ho Chi Minh. The old man, dwarfed at barely five foot tall by the huge painting, has been working on the mural for the past eight years, intending to complete it in two more years.

Despite the size of the mural,



His family and friends posed for him in this 5 x 7 foot oil painting.

INTERESTED parties on the Buivanngo rice processing machines, as well as on other Vietnamese products and trade opportunities with Vietnam, may contact **ALHEED International** at the following addresses: **Philippines** — Suite 1504 Horizon Condominium, Meralco Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, tels. (63) 2 633-5892 and 633-5893, Fax (63) 2 633-6739; **Vietnam** — Suite 1101 Tower C, Thuan Khieu Plaza, 190 Hong Bang St., District 5, Ho Chi Minh City, tel. (84) 8 955-6099, Fax (84) 8 955-6100. **ALHEED International** is exclusive distributor of Buivanngo rice mills and machines to the Philippines and, soon, to Indonesia.

BAP pushes for major revisions in SPAV bill

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE INFLUENTIAL Bankers Association of the Philippines may ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to veto the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle bill.

BAP president Cesar Virata pointed that if the current version of the SPAV bill would be passed, the Philippines could end up a "laughing stock" of potential serious investors. The SPAV bill was supposed to

provide tax breaks and other incentives for banks and other financial institutions to dispose of their bad loans or acquired assets through a special purpose asset vehicle or asset management company.

The BAP, however, said certain provisions in the SPAV bill would encourage more borrowers to default on their loans and, at the same time, drive away investors.

In a position paper on Senate Bill No. 2116 or the Aug. 19 ver-

sion of the SPAV, the BAP said Section 13 that provides for the assignment of credits should not apply to the transfer of non-performing loans.

"That will not only encourage more loan defaults but will also discourage the SPAVs from participating in the program because they know that once they acquire the NPL, all that the debtor would do is to pay them the price they paid to the financial institution

and some interest. There will therefore be no business reason for them to participate in the program," the BAP said.

The BAP also objected to the last proviso of Section 13 that states, "after the transfer of a financial institution's non-performing assets to the SPAV, the financial institution shall have no further claim or right of action against the borrower."

The BAP noted that it might

happen that the financial institution would transfer acquired assets to the SPAV without transferring its claim to the remaining obligation, if any, of the borrower that defaulted.

The BAP said that the financial institution should retain the right to pursue its deficiency claim against the borrower despite the transfer of the asset.

The BAP also strongly pushed for a qualified ban on temporary

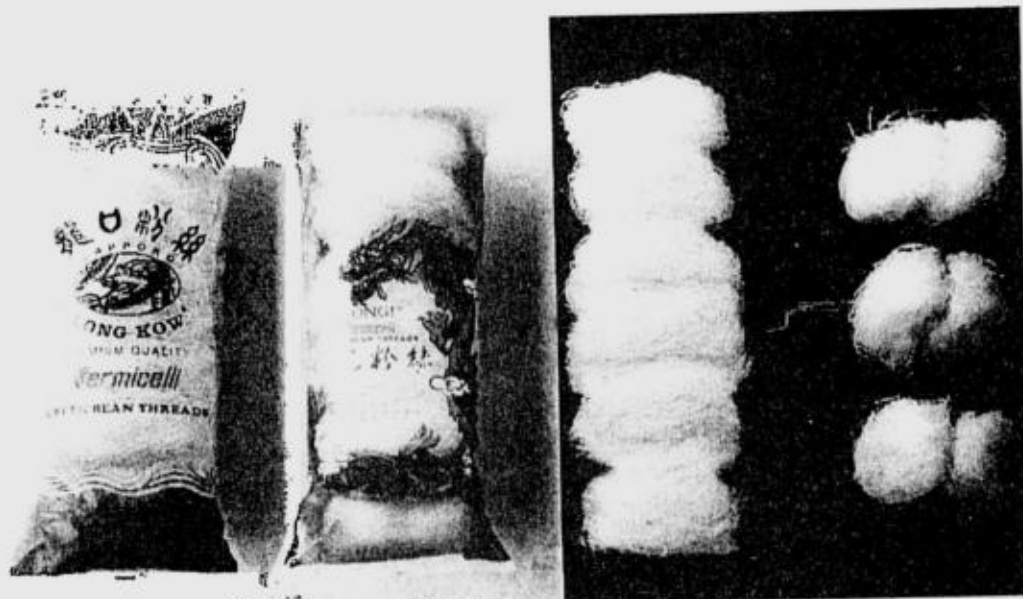
restraining orders and preliminary injunctions.

"The indiscriminate issuance of these injunctive reliefs by the trial courts is one of the principal causes of the high level of non-performing assets in the financial sector," the BAP said.

The banking association urged legislators to expand the definition of a SPAV to include mutual funds and special purpose trusts as forms of an SPAV.

REMINDER AND WARNING

We would like to inform the public that the undersigned is the owner of the patent pursuant to Reg. No. **H-2002-250** and **H202-251** issued by the Copyright Office on April 25, 2002. Further, the same patent had been filed in the Intellectual Property Office as a Utility Model and as a Design.



It has come to our knowledge that there are products (Sotanghon) being sold or circulated in the market using/copying our patent (Utility Model and Design).

It is then understood that any local manufacturer, importer, dealer who copies our patent will be liable for infringement of copyright which is a criminal offense.

The undersigned will not hesitate to bring to court any infringer/imitator of our packaging to protect our interest.

SAPPORO PRODUCTS INC.

FPI hits proposal to ban export of scrap metal

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE FEDERATION of Philippine Industries has branded as anti-competitive a proposal by the country's top five steel makers led by Cathay Pacific Steel Corp. (Capasco) to ban the export of scrap metal.

"It is an anti-competitive approach to address the problem of steel smelting companies," FPI chair Meneleo J. Carlos said in a letter to Rep. Harry C. Angping, chair of House of Representatives Committee on Trade and Industry which is currently investigating the issue.

Carlos said that taking away an alternative market for small scrap dealers which would allow a few large companies to dictate the price, volume and terms of payment was not the solution to the steel makers and metal casters' problem of a shortage in scrap metal.

Dealers prefer to export their commodities than sell to local players because of the high price offered and prompt payment by foreign buyers.

Carlos warned that a ban on all types of recyclable steel scraps would have an adverse impact on the economy, specifically thousands of scavengers and scrap dealers.

He cited a National Statistics Office data, which

showed that export of ferrous and non-ferrous wastes, and scraps has grown from \$35.929 million in 1996 to \$55.73 million in 2001.

The Tin Can Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (TCMAP), in its petition to the congressional committee, lambasted the export ban on scrap metal because it would affect the price of tinplate and tin can scrap which has jumped to P2.80 to P3.20 per kilo in 2001 from P1 to P1.50 per kilo in 2000 due to growing demand from overseas buyers.

The Philippine Steel Makers Association led by Capasco has asked the Department of Trade and Industry to ban the export of scrap metal in order to force junk dealers to sell their goods first to local players before exporting the balance overseas.

A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed by the steel makers, metal casters and the Metro Manila Linis Ganda to enforce the ban but scrap dealers, who were also asked to sign, declined because of the deal's adverse impact on their commodities.

The Consumers Union of the Philippines assailed the MOA as a violation of the Revised Penal Code which prohibits against monopolies and restraint of trade because it forces scrap dealers to sell at a fixed price and limits their market to the domestic buyers.

DOE putting up new bureaus to oversee oil, electricity sectors

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ENERGY department yesterday said it would put up two new bureaus that would oversee the oil and electricity sectors.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said in a statement that Administrative Order No. 38 signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo provides for the institutional strengthening of the DOE by redefining the functions of its units.

AO 38 mandates the creation of the Electric Power Industry Administration Bureau (Epiab) and the Oil Industry Administration Bureau (OIAB).

The Epiab would be tasked to supervise the restructuring of the power industry, "with a view of establishing a competitive, market-based environment and encouraging private-sector participation."

"EPIAB would also formulate plans and programs that would ensure adequate, efficient and reliable supply of electricity," Perez said. "(It would also) implement programs and strategies on rural electrification."

The OIAB, on the other hand, would lay out and implement policies and regulations on the sector including the processing, handling and marketing of petroleum products.

Perez said one bureau, the Energy Industry Administration Bureau, used to handle the functions of the two new bureaus.

The AO 38 also ordered the creation of two new offices:

- The Natural Gas Office, which will oversee the development and promotion of natural gas industry and the development of its market.

- The Consumer Welfare Promotion Office will formulate and implement plans and programs for consumer information, welfare promotion, empowerment and protection.

"The enactment of several laws related to the energy sector has expanded the role of the department," Perez said. "There is a need to (reorganize to enable the DOE) to cope with these developments."

He said Ms Macapagal noted that the passage of the Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Law, Clean Air Act and Electric Power Industry Reform Act has widened the scope of the DOE's responsibilities.

The official said this was another phase in the department's growth, which was simply an attached agency of the Office of the President when it was created in 1992.

RP . . .

From page B1

and World Bank in Washington D.C.

"We have to tell investors the Philippine story, the economic growth and low inflation and interest rates. We would also explain to them the deficit numbers and how the government intends to bring the level down in the coming years," Guidote said.

On Monday, the economic team would report about the country's achievements during the second quarter, especially the 4.5-percent growth in gross domestic product.

Guidote said the team would also focus on revenue collection and give the heads of the bureaus of internal revenue and of customs the chance to present their plans to improve the country's revenue-generation effort.

MARK THESE DATES!

August 31 - September 8, 2002

THE PHILIPPINE

Everyone is invited to visit the country's **BIGGEST BOOK EVENT of the year!**
10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M. • Megatrade Hall, 5th Level, Building B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City



SPONSORED BY: RPN, PhilOnline, INQUIRER, and other media partners.

Schedule of Special Events

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2002

12:00 NN - 6:00 P.M./Function Rms. A & B
"A Few To Inspire The Many:
The Teacher as a Role Model:
An Inspirational talk from fellow teachers who recently won InT. awards and chose to stay and teach in the Phils."
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M./Function Rm. A
Book Launching
"Kuwatong Syudad"
Ateneo de Manila University Press

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Power Mark Privilege Card Launch"
OMF Literature, Inc.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2002

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Kiddle Camp! Sacred Heart School workshops & activities for Children"

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M./Function Rms. A & B
"Launch of Readers' Club"
Filway Marketing, Inc.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2002

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Forum
"Current Trends in Medical Informatics"
Medical & Health Librarians Association of the Philippines (MAHLAP)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN/Function Rm. B
Forum
"New Initiatives for the Total Quality Librarians"
Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2002

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"IT Power! Technology is key. Featuring Goodwill Bookstore wabette plus freebies galore!"

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Seminar
"Osborne Episode I: Surviving Virus and Hack Attacks"
"Glencoe: Your Total Solution to the New Curriculum"
McGraw-Hill Education

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Pastor's Exclusive Launch"
OMF Literature, Inc.

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Forum
"Selection/De-selection: Building a Total Quality Collection"
Philippine Association of Academic and Research Librarians (PAARL)

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2002

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN/Function Rm. A
Forum
"Information Literacy Education"
UP Library Science Alumni Association

10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M./Function Rm. B
Book Launching
"Wow! Bulag! Mga Kuwento Para sa Pamilya by Armando Carreon, Daily Gospel Now New Edition by Robert Sullivan, O.M.L. The Colorful Rainbow by Heidi Emily Eusebio-Abad, The Magnificent Pearl by Heidi Emily Eusebio-Abad, Si Lili, Ang Nawawalang Tupa (Lili, The Lost Sheep) by M. Timothy Magadia, P.D.M., illustrated by Raquel Ide-Jimenez"
Paulines Publishing

6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
"National Book Awards"
Manila Critics Circle

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Book Launching
"Wow! Bulag! Mga Kuwento Para sa Pamilya by Armando Carreon, Daily Gospel Now New Edition by Robert Sullivan, O.M.L. The Colorful Rainbow by Heidi Emily Eusebio-Abad, The Magnificent Pearl by Heidi Emily Eusebio-Abad, Si Lili, Ang Nawawalang Tupa (Lili, The Lost Sheep) by M. Timothy Magadia, P.D.M., illustrated by Raquel Ide-Jimenez"
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10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Book Launching
"Wow! Bulag! Mga Kuwento Para sa Pamilya by Armando Carreon, Daily Gospel Now New Edition by Robert Sullivan, O.M.L. The Colorful Rainbow by Heidi Emily Eusebio-Abad, The Magnificent Pearl by Heidi Emily Eusebio-Abad, Si Lili, Ang Nawawalang Tupa (Lili, The Lost Sheep) by M. Timothy Magadia, P.D.M., illustrated by Raquel Ide-Jimenez"
Paulines Publishing

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2002

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN/Function Rms. A & B
"Genyo Product Launch & Workshop"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Lifestyle Makeovers: New Developments in Fitness, Health and Well-being"

12:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Genyo Product Launch & Workshop"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
"Christian Bookellers Association - Workshop"
OMF Literature, Inc.

5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M./Function Rm. A
"Ars Novo Guitar Quartet in a Mini Concert"
Book Wagon

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Book Launching"
OMF Literature, Inc.

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Kiddle Fun Day Sunday! Featuring the Berenstein Bears Meet and Greet plus other mascot!"

5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Got 2 Believe (...in the Pinoy Writer)"
UP Press

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Knowledge Power A Quiz Show"

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Knowledge Power A Quiz Show"

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Knowledge Power A Quiz Show"

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Knowledge Power A Quiz Show"

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Knowledge Power A Quiz Show"

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2002

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN/Function Rms. A & B
"Film Showing of Classic Teacher-Oriented Movies"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Money Matters! Career, Business & Money Management tips for everyday use."

1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Seminar/Workshop for Preschool
"Shared Reading: An Approach to Literacy"
Belgosa Bookstores Inc.

1:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M./Function Rm. A
"Forum: Cycle Time Management"
Speaker: Mr. Dindo M. Satumba
Association of Special Libraries of the Philippines (ASLP)

4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
Product Presentation
"Electronic Databases and Resource Centers for the Modern Library"
Thomson Learning

6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
"Launch of Jonathan Chua's 'The Critical Villa'"
Ateneo de Manila University Press

7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Philippine Bookfair Fellowship Night
(by invitation)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2002

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Knowledge Power A Quiz Show"

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Knowledge Power A Quiz Show"

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Knowledge Power A Quiz Show"

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Knowledge Power A Quiz Show"

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Knowledge Power A Quiz Show"

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Knowledge Power A Quiz Show"

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COUN. GAMALIEL N. SAN PEDRO

WE VOTE FOR MAYOR FREDDIE TIÑA, NOT FOR RECALL**A statement in support of truth, justice and fairness**

Lito D. HENRY I. DUENAS, SR.

We, the members of the majority group of the Sangguniang Bayan of Taguig condemn the insidious move by some quarters to impose their will on our people through the expediency of a recall move against Mayor Freddie Tiña.

The recall movement would benefit only Rep. Allan Peter Cayetano, his allies in the municipal council and other parties who harbor ill-will for Tiña, who has done his best to improve the operations of the municipal government.

We are not convinced about the logic of the Cayetano group, which has been vainly trying to undermine the administration of Mayor Tiña from the time he was elected.

They have become faultfinders, making mountains out of molehills, finding scams where there are none, and spreading intrigue just to denigrate the good things that the administration has done.

We are appalled by this display of wanton irrationality, starting with undermining the citihood movement, the opposition to infrastructure projects undertaken by the administration, and the propagation of lies about the proper administration of resources.

Administering a town is far different from seeing one's name emblazoned on unfinished school buildings, basketball courts and rutted roads. It requires judicious use of resources, efficient deployment of people and equipment, and a better treatment of people as people and not as chattel that one can use, exploit and discard for political expediency.

Instead of acting as partners in the campaign to make Taguig a growth center in the metropolis, Tiña's enemies have blocked programs and projects designed to make the town a better place to live and work in.

We are stupefied by the alacrity of this group, which sings and dances under the baton of Cayetano.

Our town cannot forever be ruled by political anarchy and economic dislocation caused by the faulty logic and trashy justifications for ousting elected leaders.

We call on the people of Taguig to reject the recall movement for the greater interest of the people, the citizens who would suffer most once the ill-motivated move succeeds.

We ask the people to take the cudgels for promoting the town's welfare by not acceding to the demands of the Cayetano group.

We, the elected councilors under the majority group solidly stand behind Mayor Tiña and we will not quiver in the face of threats, blandishments and intimidation.

We reject recall, the people behind it and those who would benefit from this mindless exercise.

SK Fed. Pres. LORD KRISTINE VALENZUELA

COUN. ROBERTO S. DIONISIO

COUN. MILAGROS V. RODRIGUEZ

COUN. DEVIO J. SANTOS

COUN. ELPIDIO M. JAVIER

TIGILAN NA ANG WALANG KABULUHANG PAGSUSULONG SA RECALL**ISANG PAGPAPAHAYAG NG PAGKADISMAYA SA MARUMING PAMUMULITIKA NG MGA KALABAN NI TIÑA**

Kaming 88 halal na opisyal ng Taguig ay nagpapahayag na:

Kami ay nasusulasok sa tahasang pagmamaniobra ng grupo ni Cong. Alan Peter Cayetano upang piliting papaniwalain ang mamamayan ng Taguig na kailangang mai-recall si Mayor Freddie Tiña.

Pagod na kami sa sobrang pamumulitika at kinokondena namin ang mga nagsusulong upang pababain sa puwesto si Tiña na wala namang ginagawang ilegal upang tratuhin ng ganito.

Naniniwala kami na ang mamamayan ng Taguig ang matatalo kapag itinuloy ang recall na itinutulak ng kampo ni Cayetano na wala man lang naisasabatas para sa kapakinabangan ng mga taga-Taguig na siya niyang responsibilidad.

Yaman din lamang na naidaos na ang halalan sa barangay at ang mga taga-Taguig ay nagpasiya na, naniniwala kaming dapat lamang na iwaksi ang pulitika hanggang sa susunod na halalan sa 2004 upang mawakasan ang pag-iirangan at pagaaway-away at manaig ang pagkakaisa para sa ikauunlad ng ating bayan.

Hindi kami sumasang-ayon, bagkus ay sumasalungat sa anumang pagkilos o kahilingan upang magdaos ng recall election laban kay Tiña dahil ito ay makapipigil lamang sa pag-unlad ng Taguig at ang panahon at salaping magugugol dito ay mapupunta lamang sa walang katuturan bagay.

Sa ngayon, wala kaming makitang dahilan o katwiran upang isulong ang di makatarungang recall ng sinumang halal na opisyal ng munisipyo, lalong-lalo na si Mayor Tiña dahil buong-buo ang aming pagtitiwala at pakikiisa sa kanyang administrasyon.

Katotohanan at hustisya ang hinihingi namin, hindi mga kasinungalingang sumisira sa bawat makabuluhang nagagawa ng administrasyon ni Tiña, mula sa proyektong imprastraktura hanggang sa pagpapabuti ng serbisyo para sa kapakinabangan ng mamamayan ng Taguig.

Walang nais ang mamamayan ng Taguig kundi ang magpatuloy ang nag-umpisa nang progreso sa ating bayan at hindi ang madiskaril ito ng maitim na ambisyon ng mga TRAPO.

Iminumungkahi namin na gawin na lamang ni Cong. Cayetano ang tungkulin niya bilang mambabatas at maging tapat sa ibinigay na pagkakataon sa kanya ng taumbayan upang manungkulan. Hindi siya ibinoto ng mga taga-Taguig upang mamuno ng demolition crew.

Nananawagan kami sa kapwa naming mga taga-Taguig na tutulan ang pagmamaniobra ng grupo ni Cayetano upang bilugin ang ulo, hindi lang ng bagong halal na mga opisyal ng barangay at sangguniang kabataan kundi pati na ng taumbayan upang umayon sa recall ni Tiña at parusahan tayong lahat.

TUTOL KAMI SA RECALL!!!**TUTOL KAMI KAY CAYETANO!!!**

SA KATUNAYAN NG LAHAT ay nilagdaan namin ang pahayag na ito ngayong ika-28 ng Agosto, taong 2002 dito sa Taguig, Metro Manila.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang • Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

More youth now prone to brain attack

By Charles E. Buban

GONE were the days when brain attack—more commonly known as stroke—was an affliction of the elderly or of people with high blood pressure or diseased hearts. There is now an increasing number of people in their 30s who are being hospitalized with signs of impending brain attack or have suffered one.

According to the Stroke Society of the Philippines, brain attack cases are increasing in the lower age bracket, or those between 30 and 45 years old.

Today, brain attacks account for as much as 70 percent of cases admitted in neurology wards in the country's big hospitals.

"While we can't at the moment present statistics on this development, it's safe to say that in the last five years our members have noticed that many patients who were being admitted were getting younger and younger," SSP president Dr. Joven Cuanang said during a recent press conference marking Brain Attack Awareness Week.

This new development tends to strengthen the medical profession's position that brain attack, like any other cardiovascular disease, is caused by an unhealthy lifestyle, including a high cholesterol diet, smoking, lack of exercise and excessive drinking.

"What further puts young people at an increased risk is that they are prone to use prohibited or designer drugs," said Cuanang.

"Use of these drugs is so rampant among the youth nowadays. Those who take these substances



ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

develop a marked susceptibility to brain attack because they could easily cause vasculitis, which predisposes the patient to brain attack," said Dr. Carlos Chua, a neurologist.

Brain attack is one of the leading causes of death and disability in the world. It affects 20 million people and kills five million each year. In Asia, the World Health Organization attributes some 2.7 million deaths to brain attack, which is considered the region's leading cause of death.

RP second in Asia

Among Asian countries, the Philippines now ranks second in the incidence of brain attack. A community-based study sponsored by the Philippine Neurological Association revealed that for every 100,000 Filipinos, 500 would succumb to brain attack at any given time.

"We need to arrest this trend and it will need the cooperation of

everyone—the government, private organizations, hospitals—to prevent or at least reduce the rate of its occurrence. The country can't afford to have its people disabled by stroke, given the economic situation we are in right now," said Dr. Dante Morales.

One of the projects of the SSP is a nationwide information and education campaign designed to promote a healthier lifestyle and advocate dietary modification, regular exercise, cessation of smoking and avoidance of heavy alcohol intake. Cardiologists, endocrinologists, nephrologists, vascular disease specialists, rehabilitation experts and even nutritionists act as partners in this undertaking.

The SSP is also teaming up with several hospitals in creating stroke teams. Specialized areas in hospitals called acute stroke units will provide prompt man-

agement of patients who suffer from a brain attack. Through these units, the SSP hopes to achieve earlier recovery time and shorter hospital stay for the patient and a 28 percent reduction in death rates and an improved functional status.

Acute stroke units already exist in St. Luke's Medical Center, Medical City, San Juan de Dios Hospital, East Avenue Medical Center, Philippine Heart Center, Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Cebu Doctors Hospital and Chong Hua Hospital.

CT scan machines

A basic requirement for an acute stroke unit is a CT Scan machine.

"A standard CT scan can quickly determine whether the brain attack is an infarct or is hemorrhagic. Determining which type would mean a lot in treating the patient properly and effectively. The accuracy of diagnosing a

blocked brain vessel in an emergency setting improved nearly 100 percent when physicians used a high-speed CT scanner," Cuanang said.

Through a CT scan, a neurologist may even determine if the patient isn't having an attack at all—it could be a seizure, a migraine or a drastic drop in blood sugar mimicking a stroke.

An infarct, the most common type of brain attack that accounts for almost 80 percent of all attacks, is caused by a clot or other blockage within an artery leading to the brain.

A hemorrhagic type is caused by the sudden rupture of an artery within the brain (intracerebral) or that surrounding the brain (subarachnoid). When blood leaks into the brain it compresses the brain structure, causing damage.

The only approved therapy for acute infarct is a clot-busting (thrombolytic) drug, administered either through the veins within three hours after the onset of symptoms, or by infusing it directly into a brain artery, usually within six hours. Thrombolytic drugs do not benefit people with the hemorrhagic type and can, in fact, worsen bleeding in the brain.

Unfortunately, only 10 percent of all hospitals in the country have a CT scan machine and they are mostly concentrated in Metro Manila, according to Cuanang. "Hospital directors must realize the importance of having a CT scan machine in their institutions. This is one of the major challenges the SSP and the Department of Health are addressing," he said.

Warning signs of brain attack

- Sudden weakness or numbness in the face, arm or leg on one side of the body.
- Sudden dimness or loss of vision, particularly in one eye.
- Loss of speech or having trouble talking or understanding speech.
- Sudden, severe headaches with no known or apparent cause.
- Unexplained dizziness, unsteadiness or sudden falls, especially together with any of the previous symptoms.

These signs may only last only a few minutes—a condition due to a "mini-stroke" known as transient ischemic attack (TIA)—but you still need medical attention because this may lead to brain attack. Around 10 percent of brain attacks are preceded by TIAs. Of those who have had one or more TIAs, about 36 percent will later on have a stroke.

Charles E. Buban

Women with epilepsy have 95% chance of having normal children

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE MAJORITY of people with epilepsy can lead normal lives and become productive citizens. In fact, women with epilepsy who require medication have a 95 percent chance of having normal children.

"Epilepsy does not interfere with my quality of life," said Cielo A. Lim Tolentino, 34, a psychologist and mother of a healthy 3-year-old girl and a 2-month-old boy.

Tolentino goes about her normal activities every day. She takes her daughter to pre-school and then cares for her newborn with the help of her husband.

Her epilepsy is manageable because she strictly follows her medication and the advice of her neurologist. She experiences mild seizures only when she gets very tired and lacks sleep.

Tolentino's case is not unique. Neurologist Dr. Leonor Cabral-Lim, president of the Philippine League Against Epilepsy, says she recently had six pregnant patients with epilepsy who gave birth to normal children.

According to experts, the risk of congenital malformation and mental retardation is two to three times greater than the average, especially when the epileptic woman takes anticonvulsant medications.

Cabral-Lim said a third of pregnant women actually experience a decrease in the frequency of their seizures while another third have more seizures. Pregnancy had no effect on the frequency of seizures in the remaining one-third.

Women of childbearing age who are on anti-epilepsy drugs are advised to take folic acid. Folic acid and monotherapy (taking just one drug), which is the general practice in the treatment of epilepsy, reduce risks.

"Aside from giving folic acid in the third trimester of pregnancy, the patient should be given Vitamin K to prevent neonatal hemorrhage," Cabral-Lim said.

Women with epilepsy need to be informed about the risk of pregnancy associated with anti-convulsants. They also need to know that seizures can be harmful to the mother and the fetus.

To breastfeed or not

A previously controversial issue was



ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

whether epileptic mothers on medication should breastfeed. Medications were thought to be carried in the milk and the babies ingest the drugs.

But experts say breastfeeding is generally safe. Low drug doses are generally negligible. However, women who take phenobarbital or primidone can produce milk that can sedate the infant. In this case, the advice of the doctor is recommended.

"If you weigh the benefits of breastfeeding with the possible complications, breastfeeding is still recommended," said Cabral-Lim.

She, however, warned pregnant women with epilepsy not to just abandon their medications without their doctor's approval.

She stresses that the benefits of treatment outweigh the risk of congenital defects, one of which is status epilepticus (continuous seizure lasting more than 30 minutes or seizures lasting less than 30 minutes but with the victim losing consciousness). Status epilepticus can be fatal but with the advances in medical

management and life support systems, the mortality rate has gone down to 10 to 12 percent.

A 1999 study on knowledge, attitudes and practices on epilepsy revealed that less than half (42 to 48 percent) of families, caregivers and health workers believed that normal pregnancy together with childbirth was possible for women with epilepsy.

One-third of parents surveyed did not believe children with epilepsy could lead normal academic and social lives. The study also revealed that majority of parents did not want their normal children to marry persons with epilepsy.

There are about 750,000 Filipinos suffering from epilepsy. They are among the 50 million people worldwide who have the disease. The lack of awareness and understanding of epilepsy has led to myths and misconceptions, resulting in social stigma that hinders sufferers from having access to effective treatments and preventing them from leading normal lives.

ASK THE DENTIST

Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Child gingivitis

I'VE noticed some blood on my child's gums when I brush her teeth. She is concerned about it. Isn't she too young to have gingivitis? She is only 6.

—Emily Y.

Gingivitis is the most prevalent form of gum disease in children. It usually

causes the gum tissue to swell, turn red and bleed easily.

Fortunately, it is both reversible and curable with regular brushing and flossing and professional care.

If your child has poor oral health habits, work with her to change them now. It is much easier to change the habit now as a

child than later as an adult. It also follows that a child will have more success in achieving oral health with a positive role model like you.

(The author is a general and cosmetic dentist licensed here and in the United States. Your questions are welcome at dentalqa@yahoo.com.)

The price of immortality

IT has always been said that the best way for people to live forever is to have children, thereby passing on not just the memories of one's existence but the family history, the family name and, of course, the family DNA.

But in some cases, the bloodline stops in a specific generation for various reasons—among them sterility due to disease and death before conceiving a child. The need to live on one way or another has recently brought two very different methods of achieving that goal.

Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine announced two weeks ago that they had found a way to preserve the sperm of various endangered species. The animals' testes or pieces of testicular tissue were grafted onto castrated mice with altered immune systems. So far, researchers have grafted rat and hamster testes onto mice and have seen the sperm become fully developed.

The mice act as living incubators, keeping the sperm alive and warm (although in stasis) until they can be of use. That would prevent any damage that freezing might inflict on the sperm.

Not all species

Similar experiments using goat, horse, rabbit, dog, pig, bull and monkey testes have been less successful. Sperm samples from these species don't seem to increase, nor do they develop fully. The degree of difference between the species to be grafted onto the host seems to be the main factor in deciding the success of each graft.

Originally developed as a means to help protect and conserve the populations of endangered species, scientists have envisioned other uses for these techniques. For example, testes tissue samples can be taken from young male cancer patients and cryogenically preserved for possible future use. (It should be pointed out that at the moment only sperm, not tissue, is being frozen.)

Unfortunately, the techniques don't seem to work for the adult male of any species yet. This ought to reassure people who picture mice that are paralyzed by the weight of adult testes on their backs. Since very few human males are likely to become willing eunuchs, this is perhaps just as well.

Having such control over sperm development also means that scientists have a better chance of studying the effects of various toxins and possible male contraceptives on sperm.

Whether or not humans will someday find the fate of their species resting on the back of a mouse or a pig or any other mammal is a matter best left to politicians and bioethicists to decide. At the moment, the main concern seems to be whether or not the grafts will lead to a transfer of the host's cells as well, which could lead to humans dying from viruses commonly found in animals.

The guinea pig that killed its owner in the computer game "The Sims" may yet

DISCOVER



Massie K. Santos

avenge its real-life kin through virtual means.

Human diamonds

On another front, entrepreneur Greg Herro has found a way for people to keep their loved ones near them even after death. His Chicago-based company, LifeGem Memorial, is offering to turn ashes into synthetic blue diamonds through a process that will take approximately four months. While Superman could take a lump of coal and squeeze it into a diamond in just a few seconds, fragile human ash needs to be purified first before being subjected to the extreme heat and pressure needed to form the hardest substance known to man.

A one-carat diamond would cost \$22,000 to make; a quarter carat would only cost \$4,000. Although the diamonds LifeGem turns out have yet to be certified by an unbiased group, they are supposedly indistinguishable from other synthetic diamonds.

Some people may find wearing their loved ones' diamonds offensive, but others are going to want to avail of such a service, which is what Herro is counting on.

Think about it: One day a grieving mother is going to talk about having lost her child and then say, "She was the light of my life, and she always will be. See?"

Then she'll touch the ring or pendant she's wearing and smile, and you'll see the sun's rays in the many facets of the jewel that her child literally is now.

Turning dead people into diamonds will, of course, have repercussions. Diamonds are a valuable commodity and the dearly departed may find themselves either passed on from generation to generation (whether or not they will be revered as ancestors or for the platinum setting is another matter) or sold off for monetary purposes.

Will women at a formal dinner fight over which part of their ex-husband sparkles more brilliantly, therefore proving which one of them he loved more?

The possibilities are endless.

The need to live forever in one form or another is strong in humans. The need to be remembered, to have mattered, can be thought of as the main reason anyone does anything. Perhaps it is a good enough reason to explain why populations of endangered animals may one day flourish again, or why diamonds will become everyone's best friend one day soon.

(Editor's note: Massie K. Santos has a bachelor's degree in molecular biology and biochemistry from the Wesleyan University, Connecticut. She has interests in several fields and is co-author of a biology textbook for high school sophomores. She can be reached at massie@massie.com.)

More thoughts on medical malpractice

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

IT'S heartening to realize that some people appreciate the simple thoughts and sentiments in the articles I write in this space.

When my piece on medical malpractice came out two weeks ago, I got a heap of mails and messages. Considering that I don't write my e-mail address anymore (because I feel guilty when I don't get to answer most of the messages), it's worthy to note that some people made an effort to find out my address to convey their insights on the subject.

I'm reprinting two of the e-mails I received in reaction to that article.

The first is an excerpt from the letter of Prof. Ramon Abarquez Jr., MD, EFACC, FPCC, FPCP [philipid@pworld.net.ph]. One of the pioneers and a pillar of Philippine cardiology, Dr. Abarquez is professor emeritus at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine and a past president of the Philippine College of Physicians and Philippine Heart Association.

"Medicine has never been an exact science. Well-meaning friends give 'medical advice.' Print and broadcast media promote 'medical remedies.' Health providers and medical experts or specialists give conflicting if not contradictory 'medical opinions.' Guidelines vary in different advisories, despite evidence-based scientific data that are intended to show overall treatment benefits.

"Why are there different outcomes and responses to treatment among patients with similar complaints? Why does one react differently to the same intervention like surgery, instrumen-

tation or anesthesia and medications? What are the points to ponder before considering that a 'mistake' is due to negligence or incompetence, and not to an unexpected or unintentional event?

"A simplistic answer would be that medical science and practice are complex. Often, medicine is an art and not a precise science. Despite the extensive advances in science and the conveniences of 'modern living,' life is still full of mystery. Current knowledge imparts the influence and interplay of genetic misfortunes, a behavioral gamble to an adverse environment. Individual idiosyncrasies exist in addition to the protective 'check and balance' and 'resistance and sensitivity' that regulate body mechanisms.

"From womb to tomb, multifactorial interaction produces varying individualized responses and reactions on patients which doctors cannot predict.

Multifactorial influences
"Despite the miniscule risk, an unintentional 'mistake' that causes unexpected adverse events remains a major concern for the general public. An appreciation of the multifactorial influences of genetics, behavior, environment and the human body's protective 'resistance and sensitivities' and regulatory 'check and balance' mechanisms, aside from 'wear and tear,' will probably reduce apprehensions related to undesirable events that affect quality and longevity of life.

"Medical science advances in leaps and bounds, but mysteries and inexactness still cloud the attainment of precise and predictable outcomes to the complete satisfaction of all those concerned about health and life.



ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Expect, therefore, different guidelines or algorithms. Health care providers are constantly abreast with medical progress, but the overwhelming deluge of information still creates conflicting or varied options and opinions.

"As long as life remains a mystery and the fountain of youth is still a lifetime quest, clinical practice will remain an art and a fallible science."

Second letter

The next letter is from Dr. Willie Ong, MD, MPH [willietong@netasia.net], an author of several textbooks in medicine and an exemplary model to many young cardiologists. He has been involved in community service and has done a lot of charity work.

"In the Medical Files of PDI (Aug. 17), you gave an eloquent argument that the 'malpractice law will add to rising (medical

costs.' Doctors will be forced to request more laboratory exams just to be safe from lawsuits. I fully agree with your opinion, but I also suspect that the push for the malpractice bill may have arisen from a legitimate discontent.

"The proponents of the bill believe that some doctors and nurses have been negligent and that this law will lead to an improvement in patient care. The argument is that if doctors fear litigation, then they will improve their services by, say, taking more time to explain medications and treatment options to patients. Doctors may likewise be forced to reduce their workload so they could offer more quality time for each patient.

"I agree that doctors should tirelessly look for ways to improve patient care. However, after investigating its implications, the conclusion is that malpractice is not the solution,

for three reasons:

"First, history warns us that the American experience with malpractice did not lead to better patient care. An oft-quoted Harvard study showed that 'erring' doctors were still difficult to pin down (NEJM, 1991). On the other hand, there has been countless mental anguish for good doctors who happened to meet a litigious patient. We do not want to end up with what President Bill Clinton called the malpractice 'mess' in the American health care system.

"Second, a substantial section of our poor are dependent on the charitable work of well-meaning doctors. With the threat of malpractice, surely the number of doctors offering charity work will drop to critical levels.

Higher medical cost

"Third, as you pointed out, patients will have to pay higher health care costs thereby depriving the poor access (to medical care). As you can see, the implications of a malpractice law are too wide-ranging to impose on a fragile economy like ours.

"If malpractice is not the answer, how then do we address the legitimate concerns of patients regarding quality care and protection against negligent doctors?

"The medical profession (in consultation with other sectors) should lead the drive in ensuring quality patient care and a better policing of their ranks.

"Some strategies that may be used to improve patient care are the recertification of health professionals (doctors taking licensing exams every five years), patient satisfaction monitoring in hospitals and the creation of a 'Patient Care Department' to address patients' complaints.

"Whatever strategy we agree

upon, we must acknowledge that the patient is the most important person in the medical care system. And if this debate results in measures to improve patient care, then... the proponents of the malpractice bill might have done their part in rekindling the drive for quality care for every Filipino."

Making positions clear

We hope we've made our position clear. We appreciate the intentions of the bill's proponents to improve health care delivery in the country. But they're barking at the wrong tree. They hardly realize that they'll be achieving exactly the opposite, with health care services becoming more unaffordable. Malpractice insurance executives, meanwhile, will be laughing their way to the bank.

It seems that the proposed bill is just a knee-jerk reaction to several isolated cases. It does not address major factors such as a deficient health care system particularly in government hospitals, and social maladies such as cigarette smoking and alcohol, which are being liberally promoted in our country.

Smoking and alcohol excess have been proven to be major causes of life-threatening diseases—from heart disease to liver cirrhosis to cancer. Yet no lawmaker is proposing to penalize cigarette and alcohol manufacturers for every person who dies or is incapacitated because of smoking and alcohol drinking. Some regard smoking and drinking as necessary evils and we even encourage manufacturers to make substantial investments and set up big plants here.

Sometimes, it's difficult to understand what's in the mind of our esteemed lawmakers and government officials. I agree when some of them say that I haven't grown up all these years.



ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

RP reaps honors at Intel science fair

TALENTED students and a dedicated teacher have done us proud at the recently concluded Intel Science Fair in Louisville, Kentucky. (The information below is culled from the June 2002 issue of the S and T Post, the official newsletter of the Department of Science and Technology.)

Dr. Josette Talamera Biyo, who teaches science research at the Philippine Science High School in Western Visayas, won the Intel Excellence in Teaching Award for 2002, the first time someone from the Asia Pacific got the honor. She received a teaching grant of \$20,000, a cash prize of \$5,000 and a high-performance mobile computer.

She thanks Intel and the DOST for supporting science fairs at the regional and national levels, saying that it is in these venues where our youth and their mentors are recognized.

She dedicates her award to all Filipino science teachers who have dedicated their lives to the profession.

"Being world-class starts in the classroom," she said.

Student achievers

In the team category, Manila Science High School students Richard Manapat, Jeric Macalintal and Allan Estrella won the grand award (and \$3,000) for their project "A Novel Application of Locally Formulated Cholestric Liquid Crystals in Dosimetry."

According to Estrella, the project involves the use of gamma-irradiated liquid crystals to detect and measure radiation dosages precisely. Its significance lies in the possible reduction in the cost of dosimetry machines (to measure doses of ionizing radiation) and dosimetry services in the Philippines.

In the individual category,

EUREKA!



Queen N. Lee-Chua

Prem Vilas Rara, a graduate of the Integrated Developmental School of MSU-IIT and (then) an incoming UP Diliman freshman, won second place (and \$1,500) for his project "Antibiotic Substance Obtained from the Parotid Gland Secretions of the Toad."

He proposed the use of an extract from the parotid gland of the common palakang bukid (ricefield frog) as an antibiotic.

Karen Christine Braganza of Cayetano Arellano High School was also honored for being the only two-time participant. Three years ago, she was the youngest Filipino delegate to the science fair when her project—the use of mine tailings as an alternative raw material for pottery and earthenware—won third prize in the environmental science category.

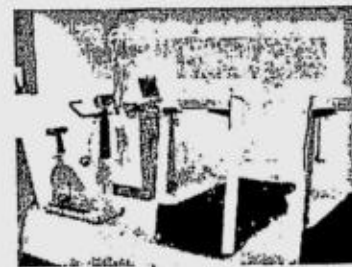
This year she worked on "Bio-glass Ceramics Using Lahar" as an alternative resource for bone implants. Her research has already attracted attention in the medical field.

Now on its sixth year, the Intel Philippine Science and Engineering Fair is perhaps the most prestigious in the country. It provides an opportunity to discover and encourage young people to come together and share ideas, showcase cutting-edge projects and compete for awards and scholarships. Previously a number of delegates have brought home accolades, and this year was no exception.

Kudos!

(Queen N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D., is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She writes the column "Mind Games" for www.inq7.net every Wednesday. Contact her at blesshook@yahoo.com.)

"Breathe Life, Live Life!"



From its humble beginnings as the Pulmonary Service several decades ago to its establishment as the Lung Institute in the 1990s, the University of Santo Tomas Hospital's newly re-named Center for Respiratory Medicine (CRM) continues to gain prominence in the field of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine in the country.

Competent complements of physicians and an array of state-of-the-art equipment empower the Center to offer the most complete approach to the management of lung diseases designed to allow our patients not just to breathe to live, but more importantly, to be able to live life to the fullest.

The center is equipped with some modalities found only at USTH:

- Video Bronchoscopes
- Body Plethysmography
- Impulse Oscillometer (IOS)
- Impedance Plethysmography
- Cardiopulmonary Exercise Testing
- Arterial Blood Gas Analysis
- Full & Limited Channel Polysomnography (Sleep Studies)

It also offers Specialty Services and Clinics in cooperation with other hospital units to cater to patients' special needs:

- Pulmonary Vascular Service
- Interventional Pulmonology (Laser Photocoagulation & Stenting)
- Sto. Tomas Obstructive Airways Program (STOP) Asthma Clinic
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation Unit
- Smoking Cessation Clinic
- Sleep and Snore Diagnostics & Treatment Unit
- UST TB Clinic on Directly Observed Therapy, Short Course (DOTS)



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS HOSPITAL

España Blvd., Manila 1008



sulong EDUKASYON!



moving the nation forward through education

Bato Balani Foundation assists 188 public schools with
Php15 million worth of books in SY 2001-2002

BATO BALANI FOUNDATION INC

Equalizing education opportunities in the country

Established in 1991, the Bato Balani Foundation Inc (BBFI) is a non-profit, non-stock organization engaged in the conceptualization and management of education development programs for its corporate benefactors, sponsors and donors. It was named after the *Bato Balani for Science and Technology*, the country's leading scholastic enhancement material for high school students published by Diwa Learning Systems Inc, one of BBFI's major benefactors and the company that founded BBFI.

The foundation aims to help improve the quality of education in the country and to allow students—especially those studying in remote areas and underserved communities—to enjoy the same high quality of education that only students in urban centers ordinarily have access to. To attain this objective, the foundation's programs follow four major thrusts: teacher development, school development, student development, and special involvements. The projects under each program have mainly teachers and other educators, educational and research institutions and students as target beneficiaries.

Teacher development. The foundation is a leading force in and best known for teacher development programs, specifically training programs in basic education for preschool, elementary, and high school teachers. It has two major programs under this thrust: *How To Be A Highly Effective Teacher* and the *Society Of Educators For A Better Philippines*. It also provides support to various teacher scholarship, recognition and similar programs run by educational institutions.



BBFI's Society of Educators For A Better Philippines Program board of advisers members: Saturnino G. Belen Jr, BBFI chairman, Onofre Pagsanghan, Fr. James Reuter, SJ.

BBFI is also involved in a number of publishing projects, like the Anvil award-winning *Quality Teacher*, aimed at developing professional educators.

School Development. *Tulong Sa Paaralan, Tulay Sa Kaunlaran* (TSP-TSK) is BBFI's most important program to develop schools. The program provides deserving schools in underserved communities to have access to quality textbooks and other reference materials. The donation to the PGMA Educational Support Program undertaken in 2001-2002 is one of the biggest projects under TSP-TSK and a response to the government's call for private sector involvement in its poverty alleviation program.

Student development. BBFI manages student scholarship, recognition and similar projects of its corporate partners, like the Fastech-PUP Scholarship.

Special involvements. As a responsible corporate citizen, BBFI also manages environmental and sports



BBFI Board of Trustees: Enrique Caballero, Amada Javellana, Juanito Celduran, Saturnino G. Belen Jr (chairman), Lorna L. Belen (president), Lourdes Luzano, William Fernandez.

development for its partners. For instance, BBFI's Active Chess Center of Asia aims to develop active chess as a spectator sport in the country and to develop new talents in this sport. Its environmental rehabilitation projects, on the other hand, aims to protect and rehabilitate the environment and cultivate the spirit of volunteerism among its clients' employees.

Corporate partners and sponsors. BBFI serves as the social-development arm of the various companies from which it gets its funding. It has done many projects in tandem with many other social-oriented institutions. Through the years, its benefactors, donors and partners have included the Diwa Asia Publishing Group, Belgosa Media Systems, Fastech Synergy Ltd, First Asia Venture Capital, First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities, AFreight, ABS-CBN Foundation, Alaska Milk Corporation, Ayala Mountaineers Club, Batangas Mahalin Foundation, Business Matters, Coca-Cola Foundation, Department of Education, Department of Science and Technology, GMA Foundation, Libro ni Loren Foundation, Makati Business Club, Parents The Family Magazine, Phil-Am Foundation Inc, Philippine Association of Public Secondary Schools Administrators, Philippine Association of Secondary Schools Administrators, Philippine Business for Social Progress, Private Secondary Schools Administrators Association of the Philippines, Public Elementary Schools Principal Association, Sarmiento Foundation, University of Asia and the Pacific, Sanofi, Sky Foundation, and Total Gas Inc.

Awards and recognition. The programs of BBFI have received numerous recognition and endorsements from independent bodies. Its *How To Be A Highly Effective Teacher*—a skills-development training program for teachers, *Tulong Sa Paaralan, Tulay Sa Kaunlaran* (TSP-TSK)—a library and school assistance program in response to the government's social reform agenda and poverty alleviation program, and *Quality Teacher*—a magazine distributed free to teachers and other school officials—have won Anvil Awards from the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP). BBFI's programs have been developed with the help and have been endorsed by the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

Accreditation and affiliation. BBFI is an active member of the League of Corporate Foundations (LCP), Association of Foundations (AF) and Makati NGO Network. It is accredited as a Continuing Professional Education (CPE) provider for professional teachers by the CPE Council for Professional Teachers. It is also accredited by the Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC) and was granted a five-year certificate of registration as a donee institution by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.



Launching of the PGMA Educational Support Program in 2001 with Pres. Gloria Arroyo, Amada Javellana, BBFI board member; Milagros Ibe, BBFI adviser; and Juanito Celduran, BBFI board member.

Bato Balani Foundation Inc (BBFI), together with its corporate partners, launched its major thrust, *Sulong Edukasyon!* The campaign consolidates under one umbrella program, all the education-oriented programs of BBFI and its corporate partners—in particular, Belgosa Media Systems, Diwa Learning Systems, First Asia Venture Capital, AFreight, Fastech, and First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities. The campaign is a private sector initiative that aims to help improve the quality of education in the country.

To kick-off the program, BBFI recently gave public schools a major boost in the availability of educational reference materials as part of its *Tulong Sa Paaralan, Tulay Sa Kaunlaran* program (TSP-TSK) and as support to the PGMA (President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) Educational Support Program (PESP). The foundation donated more than Php15 million worth of brand new textbooks and other reference materials to 188 public elementary and high schools in a one-year period beginning July 2001. The schools are located in 33 schools divisions of the Department of Education (DepEd) in seven regions of the country—Regions I, III, V, VII, IX, X and NCR. The donation stands to benefit an estimated 94,000 elementary and high school students.

The Php15 million donation was made possible by a major grant from Belgosa Media Systems Inc (BMS) and Diwa Learning Systems Inc (which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year), two of the foundation's major corporate partners. It is being implemented in cooperation with the Department of Education (DepEd), Presidential Management Staff (PMS), and the Presidential Security Group (PSG). The distribution of the donation began in 2001 on the occasion of BBFI's 10th anniversary.

The program is part of BBFI's continuing commitment to help the country's public schools through its TSP-TSK program. TSP-TSK is BBFI's long-running and Anvil Award-winning school assistance program. To date, TSP-TSK has assisted about 980 schools benefiting about half a million public school students nationwide. The program has provided about Php29 million since it began in 1983. The program was BBFI's way of helping deserving public schools in the 20 priority provinces under the government's social reform agenda (SRA). TSP-TSK has been expanded to include schools underserved communities in the country's progressive urban centers. In school-year 2000-2001, the program provided assistance in the form of reference materials and teacher training worth about Php10 million.

The project kicked off during the renaming of the Clark International Airport to Diosdado P. Macapagal International Airport, in Clark Field, Pampanga. This was in honor of the late 5th president of the Philippine Republic in commemoration of his 91st birth anniversary.

The President herself welcomed the first recipient of the project—the Bacolor Elementary School, Madapdap Annex, in Madapdap Resettlement, Mabalacat, Pampanga.

A total of Php955,115.00 worth of materials was allocated to 11 schools in the divisions of Pampanga, Bataan, Bulacan, Bulacan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Cabanatuan, Zambales, and Olongapo in Region III. Meanwhile, about Php150,000 worth of brand-new textbooks and library resource materials to two schools in Mandaluyong City through its City Mayor Benhur Abalos.

Region I was another beneficiary. Seven schools in the division received Php1.04 million worth of materials.

Region V received Php2.5 million worth of materials for 53 public schools in the provinces of Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Cagayan, Masbate, and Sorsogon. The actual turnover of the donation was done during the "Palarong Bicol 2002" held in the Iriga City Sports Complex on February 11, 2002.

About Php1.02 million was delivered to the DepEd divisions of Dumaguete City and Siquijor in Region VII.

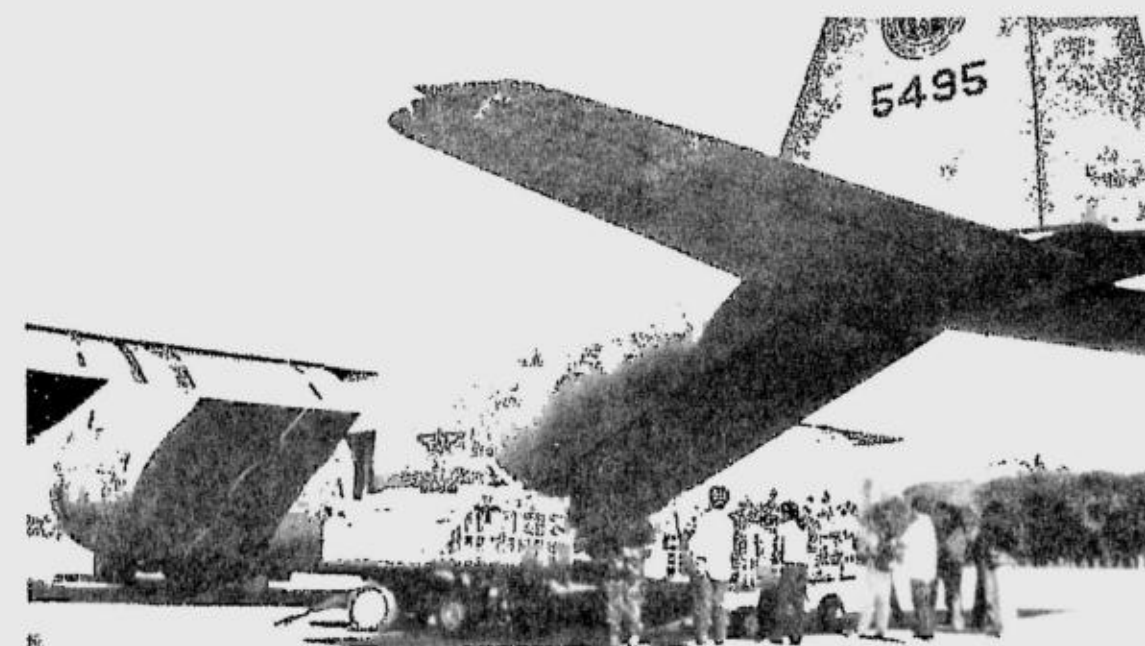
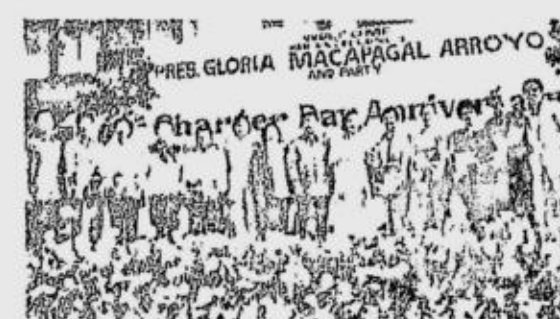
The biggest portion of the Php15 million book donation went to Mindanao. Fifty schools in Region IX's divisions of Zamboanga City, Zamboanga Sibugay, Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, and Basilan received Php5.9 million worth of textbooks and library resource materials. The actual turnover was held during the 65th Charter Day Anniversary of Zamboanga City in the city coliseum. Meanwhile, Region X received a total of Php4.2 million worth of materials for its 50 schools in the divisions of Bukidnon, Misamis Occidental, Ozamis City, Gingoog City, and Cagayan.

Aside from textbooks and reference materials, BBFI also provided training for teachers and other school officials in selected divisions under the foundation's *How To Be A Highly Effective Teacher* program.

The Php15 million educational assistance is the first project implemented under BBFI's *Sulong Edukasyon!* campaign. By consolidating its different programs under *Sulong Edukasyon!* campaign, BBFI's programs will have greater impact on and will be able to mobilize support from all sectors to help in the improvement of the quality of education in the country. BBFI, along with BMS and Diwa, will be showcasing its products and accomplishments during the Philippine Bookfair from August 31 to September 8 at Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall, EDSA, Mandaluyong City. *Sulong Edukasyon!*

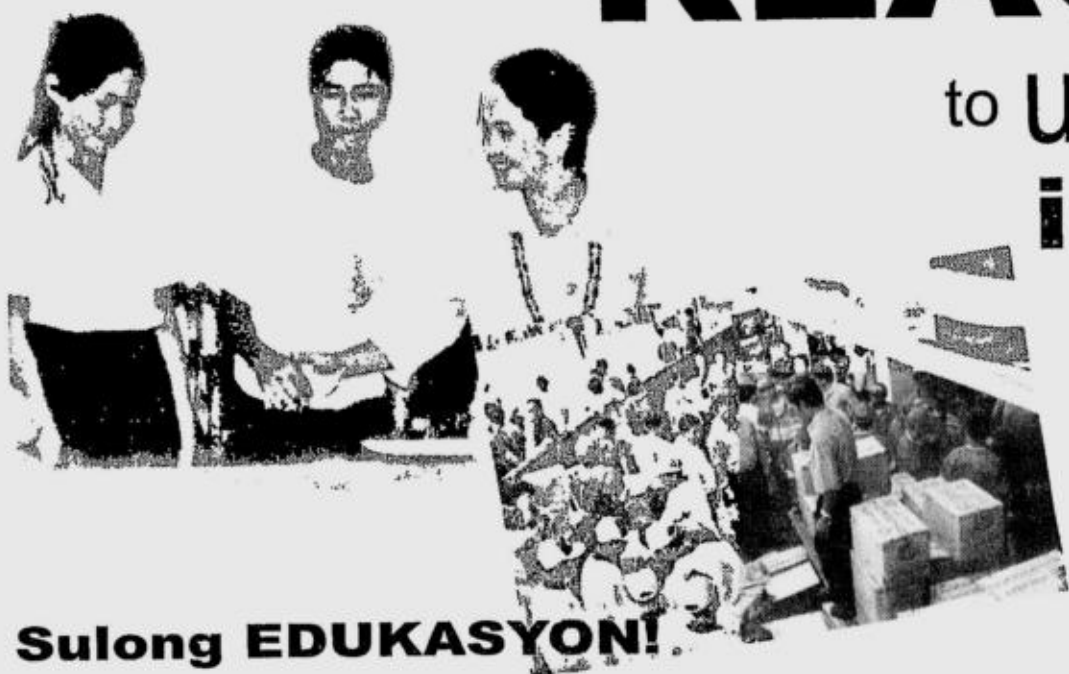


Photos: (top left) Reynaldo dela Cruz, BBFI's TSP-TSK program director at turn-over ceremony in Bulacan; (center) Turn-over ceremonies in Zamboanga City with Elnie Go-Mapa; (right) a C-130 cargo plane transports the truckloads of book donations to Visayas and Mindanao.



REACHING OUT

to underserved public schools in the country



Sulong EDUKASYON!

Beneficiary schools of the PGMA Educational Support Program

One hundred eighty-eight public elementary and high schools were chosen to be recipients of the PGMA Educational Support Program. The Office of the President with the help of the Department of Education chose the schools from 33 Schools Divisions in seven regions.

Region I

Division of Ilocos Norte. Camaquin Elementary School • Bacarra Elementary School • Lanao Elementary School • Piddig South Central School • Peralta Elementary School • Sta. Cruz Elementary School • Baay Elementary School • Pinili National High School • Don Salustiano Memorial National High School • Edgar Foz National High School.

Region III

Division of Bataan. Bataan National High School. Division of Bulacan. Atlag Elementary School • Marcelo H. Del Pilar High School. Division of Pampanga. Bucolor Elementary School • Pampanga High School. Division of Tarlac. Tarlac National High School. Division of Nueva Ecija. San Isidro Elementary School. Division of Cabanatuan. Nueva Ecija National High School. Division of Zambales. San Felipe Elementary School • Aning-way Sacatitan Elementary School. Division of Olongapo. Kalalake Elementary School.

Region V

Division of Albay. Salvacion Elementary School • Bolo Elementary School • Iluhan Elementary School • Estancia National High School • Vinisitan National High School • Batan National High School. Division of Camarines Norte. Melquiades Caldit Elementary School • San Rafael Elementary School • Vinzon Pilot Elementary School • Larap National High School • San Felipe National High School • Tigbinan National High School. Division of Camarines Sur. San Pedro Elementary School • Pasay Elementary School • Inalhan Community School • San Gabriel San Isidro National High School • Oring National High School • Colaeling National High School. Division of Catanduanes. Mavil Elementary School • Bacal Elementary School • Guinsaan Community School • Cabcab National High School • Manabrag National High School • Tubli National High School. Division of Masbate. Rizal Elementary School • Sawang Primary Elementary School • Manapao Elementary School • Quezon National High School • Panique National High School • Badiang National High School. Division of Sorsogon. Sta. Lucia Elementary School • Osiao Elementary School • Ponong Elementary School • Bacolod National High School • Oras National High School • Milagrosa National High School. Division of Iriga City. Niño Jesus Elementary School • Sta. Isabel Elementary School • La Purisima Elementary School • Sto. Niño National High School • San Antonio National High School • San Pedro National High School. Division of Legaspi City. Mabinit Elementary School • Pava Elementary School • Banquerohan National High School • Pag-asa National High School. Division of Naga. Tinago Elementary School • Villa Grande Elementary School • Jose Rizal Elementary School • Naga City Science High School • Cararayan National High School • Concepcion Pequeña National High School.

Region VII

Division of Siquijor. Po-o Elementary School • Tambisan Elementary School • San Antonio Elementary School • Baac Elementary School • Banban High School • Canduping High School. Division of Dumaguete City. Betenguel Elementary School • North City Elementary School • West City Elementary School • City Central Elementary School • South City Elementary School • Cudawinonan Elementary School • Hermonegildo P. Gloria Memorial Elementary School • Balugo Elementary School • Candau-ay Elementary School • Calindagan Elementary School • Dumaguete City National High School, Calindagan • Dumaguete City National High School, Camanjan • Dumaguete City

National High School, Junob • Dumaguete City Science High School • Taolobo National High School.

Region IX

Division of Zamboanga City. Tamion Elementary School • Guisao Elementary School • Pamucutan Elementary School • Latap Elementary School • Tictapul National High School • Tolosa National High School • Sinubag National High School • Sibulao National High School • Limaong National High School • Buluno National High School. Division of Zamboanga Sibuguey. San Isidro Elementary School • Katipunan Elementary School • Lamare Elementary School • Kahayagan Elementary School • Tuburan Elementary School • Kabasalan Science & Technology High School • Nanan National High School • Baug National High School • Makilas National High School. Division of Pagadian City. Sto. Niño Central Elementary School • San Pedro Central Elementary School • Tuburan Central Elementary School • Pagadian City Comprehensive National High School. Division of Zamboanga del Norte. Situbo Elementary School • Pangian Elementary School • Dicolom Elementary School • Singaran Elementary School • Patawag Elementary School • Siayan National High School • Guryan National High School • Sta. Maria National High School • Palomoc National High School. Division of Zamboanga del Sur. Lantian Elementary School • Lower Pulacan Elementary School • Dumaliano National High School • Dinns National High School • Lapuyan National High School • Lintugop National High School. Division of Basilan. Lamitan Elementary School • Concepcion Central School • Maluso Elementary School • Sumisip Elementary School • Tipo-Tipo Elementary School • Tuburan Elementary School • Lamitan National High School • Concepcion National High School • Maluso National High School • Sumisip National High School • Tipo-Tipo National High School • Simulatan National High School.

Region X

Division of Bukidnon. Libona Central Elementary School • Pangantucan Central Elementary School • Talagag Central Elementary School • Sumilao Central Elementary School • Maramag Central Elementary School • Kinatao Central Elementary School • Halapitan Central Elementary School • Impasug-ong Central Elementary School • Lantapan Central Elementary School • Malibog Central Elementary School • Iba Central Elementary School • Kibawe Central Elementary School • Quezon Central Elementary School • Kalilangan Central Elementary School. Division of Misamis Occidental. Minten Central School • Sincaban Central School • Talairon Central School • Lopez Jaena Central School • Langcangan Central School • Sapangdalaga Central School • Lower Tiaman Elementary School • Diwat Elementary School • Banga National High School • Kolambutan National High School • Ginabot National High School • Macalibre National High School • Mabini National High School • Senote National High School • Sumirap National High School • Banghay National High School • Silangit National High School • Jimenez Comprehensive National High School • Oroquieta Agricultural and Industrial School • Baliangao School of Fisheries. Division of Ozamis City. Baybay Elementary School • Catadman Elementary School • Malaubang Central School • Tabid Central Elementary School • Pulot Elementary School • Labo National High School • Montol National High School • Tabid Annex National High School • Pulot National High School. Division of Gingoog City. Balason National High School • Malibud National High School • Odiongan National High School • San Luis National High School. Division of Camiguin. Bonbon National High School • Lawigan Bura National High School • Mahinog National High School.

NCR

Division of Mandaluyong. Jose Fabella High School • Mandaluyong Elementary School.

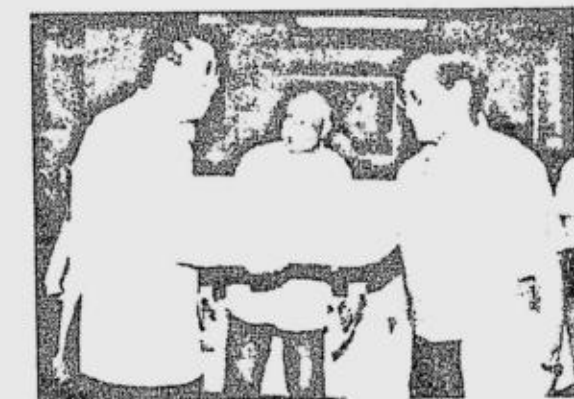
Tulong Sa Paaralan, Tulay Sa Kaunlaran



Hon. Fernando Manguera, Lipa City vice mayor; Araceli Valencia, principal of Tumbo Elementary School; Hon. Vilma Santos, Lipa City mayor; Junilito Calditaran, BBFI Trustee; Lorna L. Belen, BBFI president, during turn-over ceremony in Lipa City.

The Tulong Sa Paaralan, Tulay Sa Kaunlaran (TSP-TSK) program of the Bato Balani Foundation Inc (BBFI) has assisted more than 980 public schools, benefiting an estimated 490,000 elementary and high school students, since its launching in 1993. In school-year 2001-2002 alone, it has assisted about 188 public elementary and high schools throughout the country in support of the government's PGMA Educational Support Program (PESP). In the previous school-year, the program provided almost P10 million worth of textbooks and teacher training to public schools under the Adopt-a-School program of the Department of Education (DepEd). From 1983 to 2001, TSP-TSK has provided a total of P29 million worth of assistance to deserving private schools.

The lack of textbooks and reference materials has been a chief cause of the poor performance of public school students in competitive performance measures, and even of some young people's failure in their future careers. BBFI has thus chosen to focus in this area in its mission of helping improve the quality of education in the country.



"Unless we do something to improve the education of our people, our country will not prosper the way our ASEAN neighbors have. Education is key to development. And improving the quality of education in the country is not the task of government alone: It is everybody's business," says Saturnino G. Belen Jr, BBFI chairman. "The private sector plays a very important role in education development."

"Our philosophy at BBFI and its corporate affiliates is that private enterprise should share back part of what it earns to the community where it belongs. Sharing part of our corporate affiliates' income for education development has always been our commitment as a responsible corporate citizen. It is in everybody's interest, including our own, to exercise our corporate social responsibility," adds Mr. Belen.



TSP-TSK was a program originally conceived as a response to the government's social reform agenda (SRA) during the term of President Fidel Ramos. The program assisted deserving public schools in the 20 priority provinces under the SRA. In 2000, the program was expanded to include underserved but deserving schools in the country's urban centers. There are after all pockets of communities still needing assistance even in the country's most progressive areas.

The selected schools in the program receive an assorted set of educational materials—textbooks, scholastic enhancement materials

(SEMs), educational magazines, encyclopedia, library reference materials, classroom teaching aids—to augment whatever reference materials the schools may have available. The assistance have been made possible with help of BBFI's corporate sponsors, mainly Belgosa Media Systems and Diwa Learning Systems. The textbooks and other materials donated by BBFI to the public schools are all brand new. The textbooks and supplementary materials are also approved and accredited by the DepEd and currently in use in schools, including some of the top private schools in the country. TSP-TSK not only aims to help schools have textbooks to use but also to give these schools access to quality educational materials that are often available only to private schools in key cities.



"This is one way we can help equalize education opportunities to our people," notes Reynaldo M. dela Cruz, TSP-TSK program director. "If we provide schools in remote areas with old or outdated materials, our students there would always be left behind. If we want them to be at par with everybody else in the country, we try to give them access to the best that other schools have."

BBFI recognizes that providing textbooks and other educational materials is not enough to raise the quality of education in underserved areas. Thus, in addition to providing individual schools with textbook assistance, BBFI also provides training in basic skills in the core subject areas for public school teachers and officials under the foundation's How To Be A Highly Effective Teacher program. The training activities are conducted at the division or regional level to maximize the reach of the program.

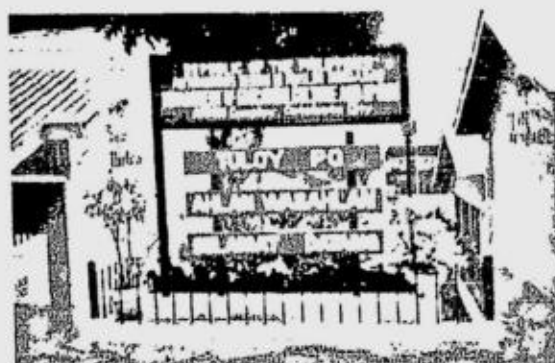
TSP-TSK is BBFI's biggest and most wide-reaching. The program is one of the cornerstones of BBFI's *Sulong Edukasyon!* umbrella program. In the school-year 2001-2002, the program accounted for about 50% of BBFI's projects, owing largely to the PGMA Educational Support Program. About P15 million was allocated for this project which reached a total of 188 schools in 33 divisions in seven regions. President Arroyo herself with the help of the DepEd divisions chose the schools to be included in the project. The project was again made possible with a grant from Belgosa Media Systems and Diwa Learning Systems.

TSP-TSK has made major strides through the years. However, BBFI cannot fulfill the objectives of the program by BBFI alone. With the help of generous corporate partners, it still has a long way to go. Public schools in underserved areas in the country still need help. If the quality of education in the country is to improve, the private sector needs to play a more active role. *Sulong Edukasyon!*



Education is a priority concern of
BATO BALANI FOUNDATION INC

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20 DIWA
THE PUBLISHING LEADER JUST GOT BETTER

Visit the booths of Bato Balani Foundation, Diwa Learning Systems, and Belgosa Media Systems through Belgosa Bookstores at the Philippine Bookfair, Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall, EDSA, Mandaluyong City, August 31 - September 8, 2002.

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Metrobank Card Corp. gives cardholders more perks and power

METROBANK Card Corp. (formerly Unibancard Corp.) recently launched its loyalty program to reward its cardholders and give them the power to enjoy life.

The new Power Perks and Rewards Loyalty program of Metrobank Card Corp. allows cardholders the opportunity to earn rewards points every time they charge their purchases using their Metrobank Visa (excluding Dual Currency and Value Visa), Metrobank MasterCard and Metrobank Value MasterCard. Cardholders earn one point for ev-

ery P200 purchase. The more they charge, the more power points they earn.

With the Power Perks and Rewards catalogue, cardholders can redeem home appliances, travel packages, tools and gadgets, toys and a whole lot more. Cardholders can still choose to redeem gift certificates, which give them the flexibility to shop from over 30 department stores, appliance outlets and specialty shops or avail themselves of services from leading hotels and spas.

Use your Metrobank Credit Cards

now and enjoy the power to choose the rewards that suit your lifestyle needs—only from Metrobank Card Corp.

If you still do not own a Metrobank credit card, apply now. Applications are available at all Metrobank Card Corp. and satellite offices, Metrobank and PSBank branches.

For inquiries, call the 24-hour 7-day Customer Service number: 8-700-700 in Metro Manila or domestic toll-free 1-800-1-888-5775 outside Metro Manila.



GMA WITH MATERIALS MANAGERS

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo recently swore to office the new officers of the Philippine Institute for Supply Management (PISM). PISM, formerly the Purchasing and Materials Management Association of the Philippines, is an organization of logistics executives from the country's top corporations. Logistics and materials management is a key factor in driving business. Shown is Ms Macapagal with the new PISM officers following their oath-taking.



ALCATEL SUPPORTS PMA

In the recently concluded National Marketing Conference held at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel hosted by the Philippine Marketing Association, lucky participants won one Touch 511 phones raffled by Alcatel. Shown is Alcatel's country manager for mobile phones division Rowen A. Untivero in a ceremonial turnover of Alcatel One Touch 511 phones to Ruby Ramores, PMA vice president for membership.

Alaska Milk Corp. first half net income up 25% year-on-year

ALASKA Milk Corp.'s net income in the first semester of 2002 grew 25 percent year-on-year, despite slightly lower revenues in the first half of the year. Revenues for the six months of the year declined seven percent to P1.94 billion from P2.07 billion in the same period last year as a result of lower sales volumes across several product lines. Consumer demand for milk products remained generally sluggish in the second quarter of the year, particularly for liquid canned milk, as the difficult economic conditions impinged on milk consumption.

Cost of sales and operating expenses, however, fell 11 percent year-on-year to P1.76 billion from P1.97 billion, pushing operating income for the period 70

percent higher than last year's levels to P179 million. Lower skimmed milk powder (SMP) cost helped improve operating margin during the period to 9.3 percent from 5.1 percent in the same period last year. The decline in other raw material costs and a selling price increase implemented in May 2001 also partly contributed to the improvement in margins. Interest income, net of other expenses, further enhanced net income in the first half of the year to P150 million, a 25-percent growth from net income in the first half of 2001 of P121 million.

Alaska Milk Corp. is one of the country's leading manufacturers of evaporated filled milk, sweetened condensed and powdered filled milk.

Allan K, Sex Bomb Girls perform at Alegria

THE CAPTIVATING Sex Bomb Dancers join comedian Allan K in "Ilong Time Nosee," a night filled with music and laughter, to be held at the Alegria Lounge in Holiday Inn Manila on Sept. 5 at 9 p.m. The show is produced by the College of the Holy Spirit High School Class of 1978 in cooperation with PLDT-NDD, Holiday Inn Manila, RCBC Savings Bank, and Prudential Guarantee. Tickets are available at the Holiday Inn, Alegria Lounge (Tel. 523-8691), and at all SM Ticketnet Outlets (Tel. 911-5555).



GET TOGETHER WITH AMBASSADORS

An intimate get-together of close friends gathered recently at Rockwell Club at Fernando's Restaurant Wine and Cheese Cocktails. Dinner followed at Palm Grove fine dining restaurant, also at the Rockwell Club. The party was hosted by friends of Bambi Harper and Frank Evaristo. Shown, from left, are Consul to East Timor Jesulito Jimenez, hosts Frank and Bambi, French Ambassador Renee Veyret, Malaysian Ambassador Mohn Tanfik Bin Mohd Noor and Rockwell Club manager Terrence Theberge.



CHINA FIRST LAUNCHED IN CEBU

DHL Worldwide Express (Philippines) Corp. recently held the Cebu launch of China First, its export and import express service for Cebu-based traders who would like to do business with customers and suppliers from China in the easiest possible way. The service offering was introduced to facilitate trading between China and the Philippines, thereby providing Filipino and Chinese businesses a service package that makes shipping transactions between the two countries more convenient and more time-efficient. DHL China First customers will have the benefit of a

streamlined management of shipment transactions by receiving just one invoice to coordinate all monthly shipment details under one account. Shown, from left, are Chona Rodriguez, area manager, DHL Cebu, Filemono Lim, president of the Cebu Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Rod Feliciano, chair, DHL Worldwide Express Philippines, Nueva Era Gabiana, grand prize winner of a trip to Hong Kong, Mike Fitzpatrick, DHL area director for South Asia and Indochina, and Charles Brewer, DHL Worldwide Express Philippines country manager.



TOTAL PAMPANGA BAGS AWARD

Pampanguenos topped its competitors to snag the top prizes in TotalFinaElf Philippines' 'Mystery Shopper Program' for Total service stations. Total retailer Patrick Guanzon from Guagua, Pampanga, garnered the grand prize of P100,000 including a trip for two to Bangkok. His service station got the overall highest score from Total's 'mystery shoppers'—anonymous marketing consultants posing as Total customers who check the quality of services of Total's

service stations. Another Pampangueno, Gerald Panglinan of the San Fernando service station got the 2nd prize of P30,000 and a trip for two to Hong Kong. Tonyo Cruz of Total Alabang came in 3rd with a cash prize of P20,000 and a trip for two to Boracay. Total president and managing director Jeff Attwood (left) is shown awarding the P100,000 check and a trophy to Guanzon (3rd from left). With them are other Total officials who witnessed the awarding

Books, music, video at bookfair



JESUIT Communications (JesCom) teams up with the Ateneo de Manila University Press to offer quality books and music at the Philippine Bookfair from Aug. 31 to Sept. 8 at the 5th level, Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. Aside from venturing into print, JesCom has created a following among the "MTV" generation through its inspiring and thought-provoking videotapes with religious and educational messages. It also produces liturgical and inspirational music in Filipino, English and Mandarin Chinese in CDs, cassette tapes and songbooks. The Ateneo Press, meanwhile, launches new books today and on Sept. 6. Visitors to the Ateneo Press and JesCom booth enjoy special discounts on all books, tapes, and other items. Call the Ateneo Press at 426-5984, JesCom at 426-5971, or Primetrade at 896-0695 for more details.

Last call for free Nokia phone

YOU have only until today, Aug. 31, to avail yourself of the free Nokia 3310 promo from Citibank. Apply for a Citibank Visa or MasterCard, either Gold or Silver, or the Clear MasterCard, and get your free Smart Nokia 3310 if you submit your application today. Once your card application is approved, you receive a special voucher which you can present to selected Smart cellular phone dealers in exchange for a Nokia 3310. The Nokia 3310 automatically comes with a free 64K Super SIM Card, waived registration fees and a Smart Gold Standard (Plan 600) account, which entitles you to free 85 minutes talk time and 225 text messages—for an affordable P600 monthly fee. Your subscription fees for the year will be automatically enrolled under the PayLite Installment Plan, payable over 12 months at 0-percent interest. Call 423-3000.

Poulex mounts family promo

POULEX Department Store and Supermarket, the biggest and the most technologically advanced shopping destination in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, celebrated its 4th anniversary this August. Poulex Department Store and Supermarket are two of the anchor establishments owned by Megacenter the Mall in Cabanatuan City. Poulex now has a special promo Shop and Drive Family Raffle. Patrons 18 years old and above with a minimum purchase of P300 entitles them to one raffle ticket. The grand prize winner wins a Toyota Revo DLX. The grand draw is on Feb. 15, 2003 at the 2nd level, Entertainment Plaza of Megacenter the Mall. A mall-wide sale is also ongoing until Sept. 2. For more information, call Megacenter the Mall at (044)463-1686.



COCA-COLA'S NEW HOME

Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) recently transferred to a new home. CCBPI is now located at the 3rd, 19th, 20th, and 23rd floors of San Miguel Properties Center, 7 St. Francis Avenue, Mandaluyong City. Shown is CCBPI president Genaro Lapez (center) and other CCBPI associates with officiating priest Rev. Armand Robleza during the blessing of the offices held July 24. The event kicked off with the Dragon Dance followed by Mass at the SMC chapel.



COCOPLANS PENSION PLAN BENEFICIARY

Cocoplans, the pre-need arm of the UCPB financial services group, recently awarded insurance benefits to the family of Manuel de la Fuente, a pension planholder from Davao City. Shown is South Mindanao I division head Silverio Edlong (left) awarding a P200,000 check payment to the late De La Fuente's son Mark at the Cocoplans branch office in Davao. Also shown are Benita Posadas, area manager (2nd from left) and other branch personnel.

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 02-02
(Series of 2002)

**AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE NLRC MANUAL
ON EXECUTION OF JUDGMENT (SHERIFF'S MANUAL)**

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 218(a) of the Labor Code of the Philippines, as amended, the National Labor Relations Commission, sitting en banc, RESOLVED TO ADOPT AND PROMULGATE, as it hereby adopts and promulgates, the following amendments to the NLRC Manual on Execution of Judgment (Sheriff's Manual):

1. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of Section 4, Rule I are hereby amended to read as follows:
SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Manual, the following terms are defined as follows:
(a) ~~xxx xxx xxx~~
(b) WRIT OF EXECUTION - an Order directing the sheriff to enforce, implement or satisfy the final decisions, orders or awards of the National Labor Relations Commission or any of its Labor Arbiters. The writ of execution is valid only for a period of ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY (180) days from receipt thereof by the sheriff or duly designated officer.
(c) LEVY - the act of taking possession, actual or constructive, by the sheriff or duly designated officer, of sufficient property of the losing party OR OF THE APPEAL BOND POSTED BY THE LATTER to satisfy the decision, order or award.
2. Paragraph (b) of Section 2, Rule III, is hereby amended to read as follows:
(b) If the execution be for the reinstatement of any person to any position, office or employment, such writ shall be served by the sheriff upon the losing party or upon any other person required by law to obey the same. Such party or person may be punished for contempt if he disobeys such decision or order for reinstatement, INCLUDING PAYMENT OF SALARY AS A CONSEQUENCE OF REINSTATEMENT PENDING APPEAL.
3. Paragraph (c), providing as follows, is hereby added to Section 2, Rule III:
(c) THE POSTING OF A BOND BY THE EMPLOYER SHALL NOT STAY THE EXECUTION OF AN ORDER FOR REINSTATEMENT.
4. Sections 3 and 4 Rule III are hereby amended to read as follows:
SECTION 3. Execution in Case of Death of Party. Where a party dies after the finality of the decision/order of judgment or order, execution thereon may issue or one already issued may be enforced in the following cases:
(a) In case of death of the prevailing party, upon FILING OF MOTION FOR SUBSTITUTION OF PARTY BY THE HEIRS, SUCCESSORS-IN-INTEREST, EXECUTOR OR ADMINISTRATOR.
(b) In case of death of the losing party, AFTER APPROPRIATE TESTATE OR INTESATE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST HIS SUCCESSORS-IN-INTEREST, executor or administrator.
(c) In case of death of the losing party after execution AND ACTUAL LEVY upon any of his property, the same may be sold for the satisfaction thereof, and the sheriff making the sale shall account to his HEIRS, successors-in-interest, executor or administrator for any surplus in his hands.
SECTION 4. Issuance of a Writ. Execution shall issue upon an order, resolution or decision that finally disposes of the actions or proceedings AND AFTER the counsel of record and the parties have been duly furnished with the copies of the same in accordance with the NLRC Rules of Procedure, provided:
(a) The Commission or Labor Arbiter shall, motu proprio or upon motion of any interested party, issue a writ of execution on a judgment only within five (5) years from the date it becomes final and executory. No motion for execution shall be entertained nor a writ be issued unless the Commission or Labor Arbiter is in possession of the records of the case which shall include an entry of judgment where the case has been appealed EXCEPT IN CASES OF REINSTATEMENT PENDING APPEAL AND IN THOSE CASES WHERE PARTIAL EXECUTION IS ALLOWED BY LAW, WHERE THE LABOR ARBITER SHALL RETAIN DUPLICATE ORIGINAL COPIES OF THE DECISION TO BE IMPLEMENTED AND PROOF OF SERVICE THEREOF FOR THE PURPOSE OF ITS IMMEDIATE ENFORCEMENT.
(b) The Secretary of Labor and Employment OR the Chairman of the Commission may designate special sheriffs and take any measure under existing laws to ensure compliance of their decisions, orders or awards and those of the Labor Arbiters, including the imposition of administrative fines, which shall not be less than five hundred pesos (P500.00) nor more than ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00).
(c) The Secretary of Labor and Employment, OR the Commission, OR any Labor Arbiter, in appropriate cases, may deputize the Philippine National Police or any law enforcement agency TO ASSIST in the enforcement of final awards, orders or decisions.
5. Paragraph (d) of Section 4, Rule III is hereby deleted.
6. Sections 5 and 6 of Rule III are hereby renumbered as Sections 6 and 7, respectively; and the new Section 5 of Rule III shall read as follows:
SECTION 5. RESOLUTION OF MOTION TO QUASH. IN CASE THE AGGRIEVED PARTY FILES A MOTION TO QUASH, SAID MOTION SHALL BE RESOLVED BY THE LABOR ARBITER WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS FROM SUBMISSION OF SAID MOTION FOR RESOLUTION. AN APPEAL FROM THE ORDER OF THE LABOR ARBITER RESOLVING THE MOTION TO QUASH MAY BE TREATED AS A PETITION FOR INJUNCTION UNDER PARAGRAPH (e) OF ARTICLE 218 OF THE LABOR CODE, AS AMENDED, IF THE SAME SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS PROVIDED FOR BY LAW.
7. Section 5 of Rule III is hereby amended to read as follows:
SECTION 6. Execution by Independent Action. A judgment, after the lapse of five (5) years from the date it becomes final and executory and before it is barred by prescription, may only be enforced by AN INDEPENDENT action.
8. Section 1, Rule IV is hereby amended to read as follows:
SECTION 1. Proceedings. SHOULD A THIRD PARTY CLAIM BE FILED DURING EXECUTION OF THE JUDGMENT AWARD, THE THIRD PARTY CLAIMANT shall EXECUTE an affidavit stating his title TO PROPERTY or possession thereof WITH SUPPORTING EVIDENCE and shall file the same with the Commission or Labor Arbiter who issued the writ and upon the prevailing party. Upon receipt of the third party claim, all proceedings, with respect to the execution of the property subject of the third party claim, shall automatically be suspended. The Commission or Labor Arbiter who issued the writ MAY REQUIRE THE THIRD PARTY CLAIMANT TO ADDUCE ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF HIS THIRD PARTY CLAIM AND TO POST A CASH OR SURETY BOND EQUIVALENT TO THE AMOUNT OF HIS CLAIM AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 6, RULE VI, OF THE NLRC RULES OF PROCEDURE, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE POSTING BY THE PREVAILING PARTY OF A SUPERSEDE AS BOND IN AN AMOUNT EQUIVALENT TO THAT POSTED BY THE THIRD PARTY CLAIMANT. THE PROPERTY OF THE THIRD PARTY claimant SHALL BE RESOLVED WITHIN TEN (10) WORKING DAYS FROM SUBMISSION OF THE CLAIM FOR RESOLUTION. The decision OF THE LABOR ARBITER is appealable to the Commission within ten (10) working days from notice AND the Commission shall resolve the appeal within the same period.
9. Section 2, Rule VI is hereby deleted.
10. Sections 1 and 3 of Rule VIII are hereby amended to read as follows:
SECTION 1. Return of Writ of Execution. The writ of execution shall be made returnable to the Commission or Labor Arbiter who issued it at any time no less than ten (10) nor more than ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY (180) days after its receipt by the sheriff who shall set forth in writing the whole proceedings and file it with the Commission or Labor Arbiter to form part of the records of the case. Failure to make the return within the stated period shall subject the sheriff to a fine of not less than five hundred pesos (P500.00), or suspension for fifteen (15) days without pay or both.
SECTION 3. Break Open Order. When issued, Should the LOSING PARTY, his agent or representative refuse or prohibit the sheriff or his authorized representative only to the place where the property subject of execution is located or kept, the PREVAILING PARTY may apply for a break open order to the Commission or Labor Arbiter concerned WHO, after due notice and hearing, SHALL ISSUE SUCH ORDER WHICH IS IMMEDIATELY EXECUTORY.
11. Sections 2, 4 and the first paragraph of Section 6, all of Rule IX are hereby amended to read as follows:
SECTION 2. Sheriff's Report. The Sheriff enforcing the writ of execution shall make a REGULAR status report on its implementation to the Commission or Labor Arbiter who issued the same. Standard forms shall be made available to the sheriff in compliance with this provision.
SECTION 4. STORAGE of Levied Property. To avoid pilferage or damage to levied property, the same shall be inventoried and stored in a bonded warehouse, wherever available, or in a secured place as may be determined by the LABOR ARBITER OR THE COMMISSION with notice to the losing party or third party claimant. For this purpose, the sheriff shall inform the Commission or Labor Arbiter concerned of the corresponding storage fees, CHARGEABLE TO THE PREVAILING PARTY.
SECTION 6. CASH ADVANCE and Execution Fees. Sheriffs or duly designated officers shall be provided at the beginning of the month with a cash advance not exceeding TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.00) for transportation expenses which shall be liquidated at the end of the month with a statement of expenses and itinerary of travel duly approved by the Commission or Labor Arbiter issuing the writ.
This Resolution shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
SIGNED this 3rd of July, 2002, in Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines.

VICENTE S.E. VELOSO, III
Commissioner

ROY V. SENERES
Chairman

ALBERTO R. GUMPO
Commissioner

VICTORIANO R. CALAYCAY
Commissioner

RAUL Y. AQUINO
Presiding Commissioner

ANGELITA A. GACUTAN
Commissioner

IRENEO B. BERNARDO
Commissioner

LOURDES C. JAVIER
Presiding Commissioner

(on leave)
TITO F. GENILO
Commissioner

EDUARDO M. EMERLAN
Commissioner

IRENEA E. TENIZA
Presiding Commissioner

OSCAR S. UV
Commissioner

LEON G. GONZAGA, JR.
Commissioner

SALIC B. DUMARPA
Presiding Commissioner

OSCAR N. ABELLA
Commissioner

Attested by:
PERLITA B. VELASCO
Acting Executive Clerk

(PDI - Aug 31 & Sept. 1, 2002)

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PHILIPPINE RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
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Central Experiment Station
Science City of Muñoz
Nueva Ecija

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

All interested parties are hereby invited to prequalify for the 1. Construction of the Seed Health Laboratory, and 2. Construction of the Biotechnology Laboratory, and 3. 3 Dr. apt. at the Central Experiment Station of PhilRice, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. Application for prequalification is extended to Filipino contracting firms with valid license issued by PCAB of at least "Category A" and "Medium A" for General Building (for projects 1, 2) and "Cat B small B" for the 3-Dr Apt (local contractors only) Financial capacity, good track record, and specialty of office buildings and laboratories are required for all interested parties.

Prequalification Documents shall be available for issuance during office hours from **September 10, 2002 to September 12, 2002** at the Internal Audit Office, Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Administration, PhilRice, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. All are required to submit a letter of intent addressed to the PhilRice Director, and presentation of the original, unexpired PCAB license. Representatives of the contractors must present a notarised attorney-in fact authorizing him/her to represent the company in obtaining the forms. Prequalification forms shall be released upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00. Submission of accomplished Pre-C forms shall not be later than 5:00 p.m., **September 19, 2002** at the same office and address.

Only pre-qualified applicants shall be invited to participate in the biddings.

PhilRice reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Additional information shall be furnished upon notice of prequalification.

(Sgd.) **LEOCADIO S. SEBASTIAN**
Executive Director

(PDI - Aug 30 31 Sept 7 & 8 2002)



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION**

LETTER OF INVITATION TO QUALIFY AND BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Bureau of Fire Protection is inviting interested bidders who are at least 60% Filipino-owned to qualify and bid for the supply and delivery of:

1,940 pcs. FIRE COATS 750 pcs. FIRE HELMETS
750 pcs. FIRE BOOTS 1,350 pcs. FIRE GLOVES

Bid documents may be obtained at the Bureau of Fire Protection, Bids and Awards Committee, Room 406, Union Square Condominium I, 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City on September 4-6, 2002 during office hours from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM with Telephone No. 911-5943 (Attn: F/INSP MARY JOY M CANDELARIO, Secretariat), upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P3,000.00 in cash at Finance Service Unit, Room 610. The Pre-bid Conference will be held on September 13, 2002, 2:00 PM at Rm. 101, BFP Conference Room.

The BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their proposals nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **JOSE E COLLADO**
SR SUPT (DSC) BFP
Deputy Fire Chief for Operations
Chairman, BFP-BAC

(PDI - Aug 24 & 31, 2002)

Bike for Life Send-Off Today

THE CANCER Warriors Foundation continues its battle for the lives of cancer-stricken children as it joins the world in celebrating the International Children's Cancer Month in September.

Children beneficiaries of last year's Bike for Life run will make an appearance to bid the bikers farewell during the Send-Off Ceremony today at 6:30 a.m. at Block 20 of the Fort Bonifacio Grounds, Taguig (near Jollibee and Starbucks Fort Bonifacio). A simple blessing and testimony of the cancer warriors will highlight the event. James Auste, 25 year-old cancer survivor and main organizer of the event, leads the Northern Luzon journey.

The Bike for Life Team will journey off to Cabanatuan City as it begins the first leg of the 14-town Cancer Awareness Caravan.

Register at any of the journey's 14 stops to join Bike for Life. All proceeds of Bike for Life will go directly to the treatment of disadvantaged children through the Cancer Warriors Fund. Inquiries may be made at 631-7339 Look for Maella Abaya.



PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 810-4901 to 10; Fax No. 818-6807
Website www.pdic.gov.ph

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE - GOODS, SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites Janitorial Agencies with at least three (3) years experience to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project stated hereunder:

Name of Project : Janitorial Service - Corporate Office & Warehouse
Project Description : One (1) year Janitorial Service Contract, Floor Area : 8,670 SQ. M., Required Personnel : Twenty Eight (28)
Approved Budget : P3,603,240.00

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are contained in the Terms of Reference available for issuance from **September 2 to 9, 2002, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM** at the BAC-GSM Secretariat, Ground Floor, PDIC Building, from Ms. Baby Quitevis or Ms. Malou Francisco upon submission of a Letter of Intent addressed to the BAC-GSM Chairman.

Submission of Eligibility Requirements : September 11, 2002 (5:00 PM)
Prebid Conference : September 16, 2002 (2:00 PM)
Submission of Bids : September 19, 2002 (on or before 2:00 PM)
Opening of Bids : September 19, 2002 (2:30PM)

Criteria for eligibility check, examination and evaluation of bids and postqualification shall be on non-discretionary pass/fail basis. Only eligible bidders shall be considered for bid awards.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidders' participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

(Sgd.) **CATHERINE F. BAMBA**
Chairman

(PDI - Aug 31 & Sept. 7, 2002)



ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte
Tel. Nos. (077) 784-7546, Fax No. (077) 784-7125

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. has applied for a loan from the Rural Electrification Financing Corporation for the construction of 7.620/13.2 KV three phase 4 wire backbone line.

Interested suppliers are invited to submit their pre-qualification documents for the supply of pole line materials, hardware, conductors, poles and other materials needed in the construction of the distribution line not later than September 4, 2002 at INEC main office, Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte.

Only those pre-qualified shall be invited to Bid.

(Sgd.) **RENATO A. BALINTEC**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI - Aug 25, 30 & 31, 2002)

Q FUNERARIA QUIOGUE

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AUGUST 31, 2002

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OBITUARIES

MARCOS TOLENTINO YÑIGUEZ, JR

Peacefully joined his Creator
on the 29th of August 2002 at the age of 83.

His wife Julia Enriquez Yñiguez; children Sonny & Susan, Cesar & Cynthia, Boy & Mitos, Marian & Ernie, and Gerry & Pinky; grandchildren Chester, Geg, Makol, Tata, Carlo, Monica, Joao, Jose, Adrienne, Tanya, Sarah, Jamlin, Makl, Yogi, and Gabi; step-mother Carmen; brother & sisters Fely, Tella & Tino, Buhay & Blo, Ato & Ofel, Pinas & Carlito, Yssa & Larry, Vince & Buds, Dayang & Ricky; sister-in-law Lutchie; cousins and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 35 Rosaryville Avenue, Rosaryville Subdivision, Tabang, Guiguinto, Bulacan.

Mass will be held on September 1, 2002, 2PM at the Holy Family Chapel, Violeta Vill., Tabang, Guiguinto, Bulacan. Interment will follow at the Manila Memorial Park, St. Rita, Bulacan.

JUNNIPHER JOE MANGABAT

November 28, 1968 – August 26, 2002

Beloved husband of Twinkle, devoted father of Danielle
The only son of Capt. & Mrs. Jose Mangabat
Loving brother to Jeannette & Jorica
and bro-in-law of Peter Zagala

Junnie, as he is fondly called has lived his life to the fullest
and he will be dearly missed by those whose lives
he has touched one way or the other.

Interment will be on Friday, August 30, 2002 at the
St. Gertrude's Cemetery in Colonia, New Jersey, U.S.A.

Special Mass will be offered on August 31, 2002, 9:00 AM
at Valle Verde V Chapel.

Our Beloved Mama Dec

Mercedes Castro Javier

of Laoag City and San Juan, MM

Passed away on August 29, 2002 at the age of 93.

Beloved sister and in-law of:

Dr. Dominador (†) and Sofia Javier (†)
Gen. Vicente (†) and Bessie Javier
Rosario and Atty. Jesus Ruiz (†)
Cristeta (†) and Engr. Felix Yambao (†)
Captain Ireneo (†) and Luningning Javier
Prospera and Atty. Regino Eustaquio (†)

Together with her nephews, nieces, grandnephews, grandnieces
request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Christ the King Church Mortuary,
Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 1, 2002 at the
Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

We've added another
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of your departed loved ones.



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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS

1 Copy of Death Certificate 2 Any Identification document (I.D.)

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we lovingly remember
Papa who is
forever in our hearts...
you are dearly missed by all of us.

LIM HONG BEN

(July 25, 1935 - August 31, 2001)

Holy Masses will be offered
on August 31, 2002
The family would like to extend their
sincerest thanks to all those who continue
to keep him in their prayers.

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of
BJ Marthel International, Inc. condole with the
bereaved family of our Vice President,
Power & Engineering Division

LUBIN C. AZUCENA

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on August 25, 2002 at the age of 65

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz in Manila
Memorial Park, Paranaque.

Interment will be on Sunday,
Sept. 1, 2002 after the 9 a.m. Mass

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting
tribute to your departed loved one.

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Mandaue City, Cebu
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COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
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(047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
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Fax No. 711-3064
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Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
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FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
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Mandalagan, Bacolod City, Tel. 433-7132
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Tels. 522-8848, 522-8438, 440-6394

"Whoever believes in Me will LIVE,
even though he dies."

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to
Pinky & Philip Labordo
and the family of

FE FABREAG

of Poblacion Concepcion, Romblon, Mindoro

who died in the Grace of our Lord
on August 23, 2002 at the age of 72.

We request pious readers and friends to please pray
for the eternal repose of her soul.

Cathy & Mario Dacay
Chet & Vic Sianghio
Doris & Eugene Pe
Emily & Henry Uy

Evelyn & Jeff Cheng
Jennifer & Charlie Tan
Laila & Emmanuel Lim
Shirley & Richard Dee

BUSINESS

RP still committed to Afta, says Canlas

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES will not backtrack from its commitments to the Common Effective Preferential Tariffs (CEPT) scheme of the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) especially now that the domestic economy has started to benefit from its improved trading with other members of the bloc, Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said.

In an interview, Canlas said the Philippines would move ahead with its tariff reduction

commitments to Afta-CEPT although the government would still hear the petitions from various sectors that were aggressively lobbying for exemption.

"The lists of industries to be included in and excluded from the tariff reduction program have already been presented to the Neda (National Economic and Development Authority) board. We are finalizing the lists but we are still hearing the petitions," Canlas said.

Under the CEPT, the tariffs on Asean products are to be progressively reduced to a

range of 0 to 5 percent. The government believes the tariff cuts will boost intra-Asean trade but certain local industries claim the program will harm domestic producers.

Canlas said the increase in intra-Asean trade due to Afta and the rising exports to China and South Korea enabled the industrial sector, particularly manufacturing, to increase its contribution to the economy.

Canlas noted that Afta—especially the Asean 5 such as Brunei, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia—plus

China and South Korea now accounted for the country's biggest trade transactions as a bloc.

"The US is still the country's single biggest export market but as a group, this bloc is now the biggest destination of exports and a major source of imports," Canlas said. "Asean trade is really growing fast. It has been picking up since the region started implementing Afta-CEPT," he said.

"The Philippine economy is benefiting from the growth of China because we are able to export more to that country as

well as other countries in Southeast Asia," Canlas said.

A dramatic rebound posted by local industries and the continued growth registered by the services sector fueled a 4.5-percent expansion in the domestic economy in the second quarter of this year, exceeding all expectations and posting the strongest performance since the third quarter of 2000.

The industrial sector led by manufacturing posted a 4.3-percent growth in the second quarter compared with the 1.3-percent growth in the first quarter.



CANLAS

Pyramiding scams seen shifting to provinces

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry yesterday warned that unscrupulous groups and individuals might pursue their get-rich-quick scams from Metro Manila to the provinces following the tightening of rules against pyramiding and multi-level marketing schemes.

Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. said the signing on Wednesday of a Department Administrative Order between the DTI and the Securities and Exchange Commission could prompt Ponzi scheme peddlers to ply their trade in the provinces, where most people have not yet been enlightened on the new and more elaborate get-rich-quick scams.

Cristobal said the DTI had achieved substantial success in going after pyramiding schemes in Metro Manila as more urban residents became more aware of these fraudulent schemes and victims have boldly come forward to file their complaints.

"We believe that their next target are areas outside Metro Manila," Cristobal said.

He has instructed the DTI's regional offices to strengthen their monitoring and to step up their information campaign to warn the public against falling into the veiled trap of rip-off artists.

Cristobal said the DAO expanded the definition of pyramiding in view of the emerging complex schemes that have victimized a number of consumers.

Ponzi schemes have become more rampant amid an economic slowdown that force more lower- to middle-income earners to try other means to earn extra income.

The DAO puts more teeth in the implementation and raises the penalties on transgressors.

It also allows the DTI to initiate a probe of a dubious scheme on its own and to issue a cease and desist order pending the results of the inquiry. It also laid down the boundaries between the two agencies in order to speed up the resolution of cases.

Cristobal said the DAO had been expanded to include MLM schemes, which he described as unabashed pyramiding under the guise of product marketing because investors earn not on the value of products sold but on the number of agents recruited to sell the product.

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PGI increasing Mak-Ban field steam output

BAY, Laguna—Philippine Geothermal Inc. yesterday said a \$9.7-million (about P495 million) deep well drilling program aimed to bring up steam production in the Makiling-Banahaw geothermal field was started early this month.

PGI drilling engineer Phil Naive told reporters that bringing up steam production was meant to meet an expected increase in demand once the planned rehabilitation of the National Power Corp.'s Mak-Ban power complex was completed.

"The drilling and rehabilitation programs would bring up Mak-Ban's operating capacity from 370 megawatts to 402 MW by 2004," Naive explained.

He said three wells, each with a target depth of 12,000 feet (about 3,600 meters), would be drilled one after another.

The drilling of the first well—Bulalo 104—started on Aug. 9. It will be completed by end September or after 50 days. The drilling of the two other wells—Bulalo 105 and 106—would take about as much time.

PGI spokesperson Edgar Sevilla said the funding for the three wells would be shouldered by Napocor.

Sevilla said that while PGI was the developer of the geothermal field, it was Napocor that owns the wells.

The official added that between three and six additional wells were being scheduled for drilling in 2003, although the funding for these has yet to be secured.

Sevilla said each additional well would cost \$2.8 million or about P143 million.



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SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre © Associate Editor Edmund L. Sicam

Switch to serious drama can be risky for comics

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES — Why do moviegoers accept tragedy from the star of "Turner & Hooch" but not from the leading man of "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective?"

Timing

Like comedy, it's partly a matter of timing. Comic actors who ease into darker characters over a number of years often fare better than those who plunge into drama too quickly. And a clumsy transition from the wacky to the sublime can damage a career by alienating fans.

"Do I think, 'What will the fans think?' ... I don't know. I just hope they keep watching," said Robin Williams, who delivered two sinister performances this summer, as a homicidal writer in "Insomnia" and a lonely stalker in the new "One Hour Photo."

Despite the risk, Williams, who won a supporting actor Oscar in 1998 for a somber role in "Good Will Hunting," said shifting from comedy to drama keeps an actor fresh. "You want to find characters that you haven't seen yourself do and that maybe no one has seen before," he said.

Key to longevity

Few old-time comics such as Groucho Marx or Bob Hope felt compelled to try serious acting, but many contemporary comedians see drama as the key to longevity and influence in Hollywood.

Adam Sandler has put aside his rage-filled comedy for a more tender role in the upcoming "Punch-Drunk Love," while "Friends" actress Jennifer Aniston has tried to step out of her sitcom's shadow with the gloomy drama "The Good Girl."

"Everybody wants to do more than what their core niche skill is," said Josh Spector, a



WILLIAMS. Shifting from comedy to drama keeps an actor fresh.



HANKS. His bittersweet comedies showed off his dramatic skills.

film writer for The Hollywood Reporter.

"It's the same as TV actors wanting to be movie stars, singers wanting to act and actors wanting to direct." Unlike Jim Carrey and Steve Martin, who have had difficulty attracting audiences to their more sedate work, Williams and two-time Oscar winner Tom Hanks are virtual case studies in how to move from comedy to

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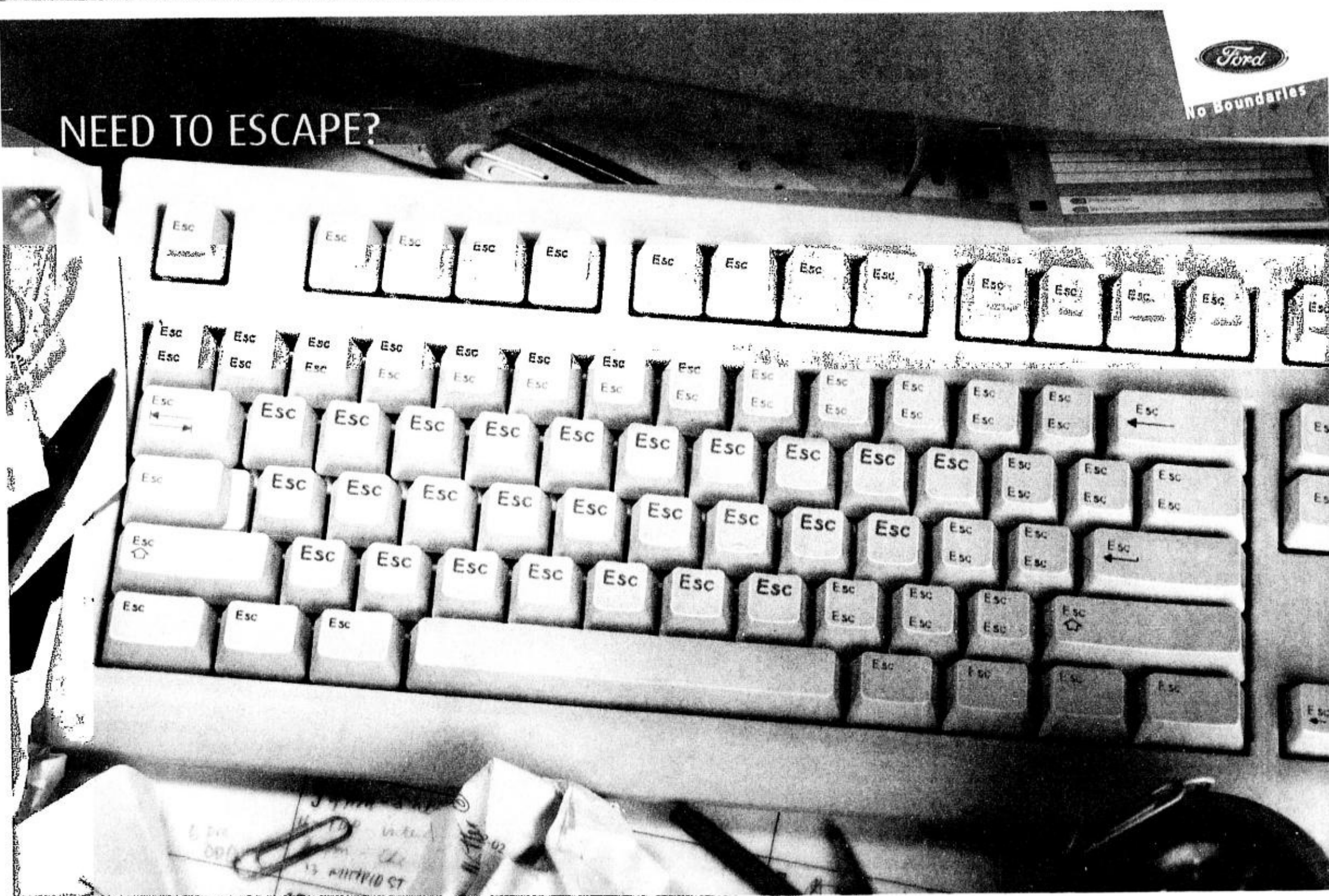
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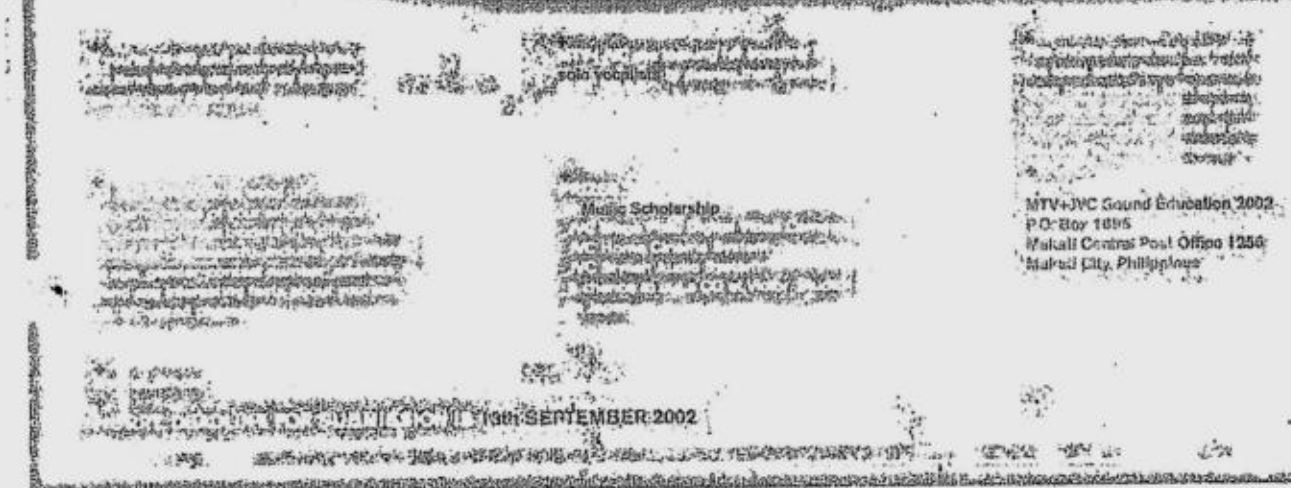
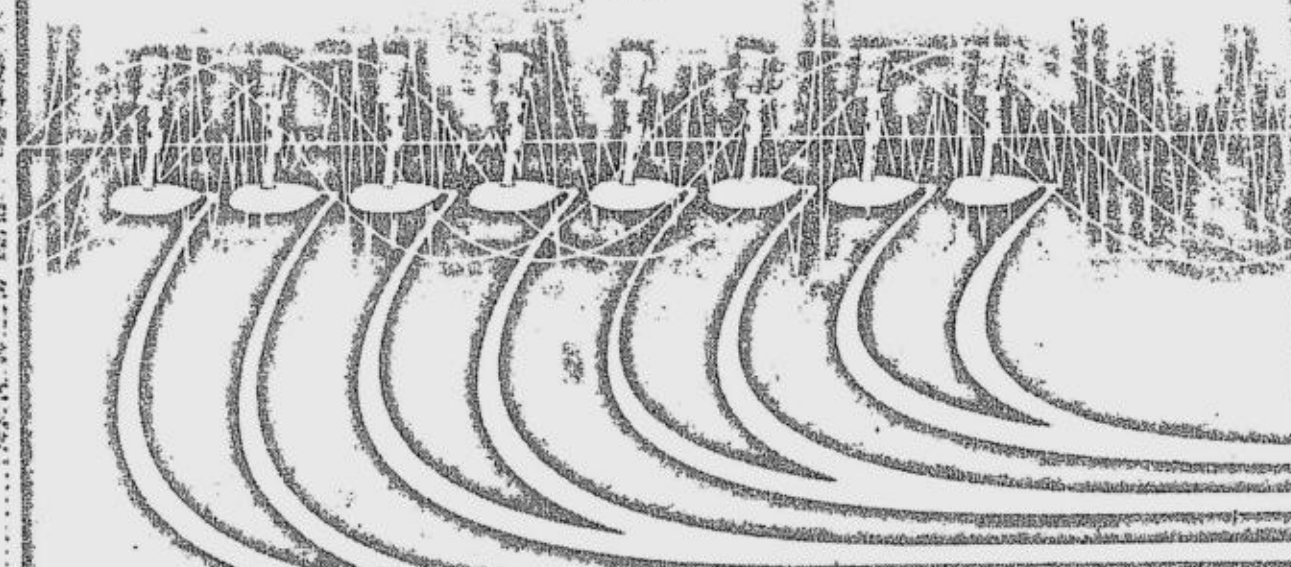
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Switch to serious drama . . . From page C1

drama.

Like Hanks, who started out in screwball movies like "Bachelor Party" and the cop-and-dog caper "Turner & Hooch," Williams made a very gradual switch from comedies like "Club Paradise" and "Popeye" to heavier roles in the 1980s.

Witty characters

He played sad characters in the comedies "The World According to Garp" and "Moscow on the Hudson" before shifting to witty characters in the melancholy "Good Morning Vietnam" and "Dead Poets Society." From there he took a non-joking role as a doctor caring for comatose patients in 1990's "Awakenings," then reversed himself: going from that weighty life-and-death story to the tragi-comic "The Fisher King" and the fantasy "Hook."

Comedians often make good dramatic actors because the energy they suppress for a serious role can add depth to their performance, said "One Hour Photo" writer-director Mark Romanek.

"Robin was sometimes hysterically funny before a very serious take," Romanek said. "That was him blowing off steam so the character was stripped of all that. I think audiences can sense he is holding back a volcano and it adds an edge to the character." Often, the hardest part for a comedian is just getting the chance to appear in a drama. Producers and studios must be convinced that fans will accept the serious turn.

In Hanks' case, audiences were used to him in silly projects, including the mermaid love story "Splash," but his bittersweet comedies like "Big" and "Punchline" showed off his dramatic skills as well. By the early 1990s, Hanks was a back-to-back Oscar winner for playing a terminal AIDS patient in "Philadelphia" and a kind simpleton in "Forrest Gump."

Comic past

Audiences have largely forgotten his comic past; Hanks has become progressively more morose with "Saving Private Ryan" and "Cast Away," building up to his latest and most vicious role as a vengeful hitman in "Road to Perdition."

Similarly, Woody Allen went from the light-hearted laughs of "Sleeper" and "Annie Hall" in the 1970s to more dour projects like "Crimes and Misdemeanors" and "Shadows and Fog."

Fans of both kinds of Allen movies, however, have shown little interest now that he has returned to light comedies with "The Curse of the Jade Scorpion" and



SANDLER. Rage-filled comedy.

"Hollywood Ending," which both bombed at the box office.

Carrey, after the gross-out antics of "Ace Ventura," said that moving to dramatic roles like "Man on the Moon" and "The Truman Show" was a bid for respect.

"I think that there is a danger with any comedic artist that at a certain point people sit back and go, 'OK, now you're an old guy and you should have some dignity,'" Carrey said late last year while promoting his Red Scare drama "The Majestic."

Image

But both "The Majestic" and "Man on the Moon" underperformed at the box office, perhaps because the image of Carrey talking with his backside in "Ace Ventura" was still too fresh in moviegoers' minds.

"Would 'The Majestic' have been a hit with an established serious actor? I don't know," said Spector, of The Hollywood Reporter. "But Carrey was not selling to his core base of fans who love him."

Similarly, critics praised Bill Murray's performance as a man looking for meaning after World War I in the 1984 drama "The Razor's Edge," but fans of "Ghostbusters" showed little interest in the soul-searching role.

In recent years, however, Murray has developed a side career with dramatic parts in "Rushmore," "Cradle Will Rock," "Hamlet" and "The Royal Tenenbaums."

Like Murray, comedians who choose smaller roles in serious movies can reap honors without the risk of carrying the entire film.

Little success

Martin had little success shedding his wild-and-crazy guy image when he starred in the dramas "A Simple Twist of Fate" and last year's "Novocaine," but he was well-received in a supporting role as a high-class con artist in "The Spanish Prisoner."

Dan Aykroyd's turn as Jessica Tandy's blowhard son in "Driving Miss Daisy" earned him an Oscar nomination and other small parts in the dramas "Chaplin" and "Pearl Harbor."

"These guys have spent so long making people laugh," Spector said. "And as they get older ... this is a chance to experiment without the pressure of being the star." AP

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Gary V performs in 'Hits Onstage'

By Edmund L. Sicam

GARY Valenciano is all set to do a new concert series "Hits Onstage" at Greenbelt Makati's, but for a limited engagement only. It has been scheduled for only four nights (Sept. 6, 20, 27 and 28) but of course the possibility of an extension is always there. "It's great for me, because this concert has a lot of new songs. So anywhere I go, now, our repertoire is gonna be, o, gawin natin ito!" says Mr. Pure Energy.

Challenges

Gary knows the challenges he will face given a concept like this. "It's going to be very difficult, because when you say 'Hits Onstage', I bet some of you are thinking how in the world could he come up with a concert like this, when there are hundreds of songs from the '70s to 2000?" He says that is precisely what they are going to do: He is going to do a lot of songs, but not the regular kind.

"Some of the songs will be popular with some people but many will be my own personal hits. This time we're doing things *na hindi ko pa naga-gawa*, like Carly Simon, or a little of James Taylor," discloses Gary. "Kasi the '70s for me were a little bit of Motown, disco, Carly Simon, James Taylor...now how do you squeeze (all of that in?) *Iyon lang e*, that can be one show already!"

Of course, Gary will be singing



VALENCIANO. Surprises up his sleeve.

his own songs as well, but he promises to have some surprises up his sleeve in that department too. "Even my hits will sound different. I'm working on an arrangement for "Eto Na Naman" that sounds very today, very Linkin Park, he shares excitedly. Gary shared that he let his children listen to this new arrangement and they were excited with the result.

Gary admits that Onstage is not an easy venue for a performer like him because it is more like a

Gary V/C7

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NEED TO ESCAPE?

Focus on Westlife

THIS week's Q & A:

"Can you tell me about the boys from Westlife before stardom beckoned? How did they come together? Please include their individual profiles and romantic status." —*Lourdes Ramirez, Leyte*

Westlife, the Irish pop quintet composed of Shane Steven Filan, Mark Michael Patrick Feehily, Kian John Francis Egan, Nicholas Bernard James Adam Byrne and Brian Nicholas McFadden (whew!), started when Shane, Kian and Mark met as part of the cast of a Dublin theater production.

Play

The play, "Grease," was immortalized on the big screen by John Travolta and Olivia Newton John. Shane played Danny, Kian portrayed Kenickie and Mark was cast as Vince Fontaine and Teen Angel. After a night-out at a sing-along (yes, they, too, have karaoke bars), the trio was prodded to form a band, so they recruited three more boys who were eventually dropped because they didn't pass muster vocally.

They held auditions and took in Nicky and Brian from the cattle call. Excited at the potential of the talented, good-looking group at a time when boy bands ruled the pop charts, Shane's mother called Louis Walsh, manager of then-popular Boyzone, who brought along Boyzone's lead vocalist Ronan Keating, to check out the boys. They were impressed and decided to co-manage the quintet.

Original name

The band's original name was Westside, but there were a couple of U.S.-based pop/rock bands who were using the name, so they decided on Westlife. Their debut single, "Swear It Again," released in April, 1999, went straight to number one, and became Ireland's biggest selling debut single ever. To date, Boyzone is the only band in UK chart history to have their first seven singles debut at number 1.

Their Christmas single, "What Makes A Man," broke the trend and narrowly missed the top spot. Their charity release (for Comic Aid) of Billy Joel's "Uptown Girl" (remember that MTV with supermodel Claudia Schiffer?) brought the group back to debuting at number one.

Their recent "Coast to Coast" album went triple platinum in Ireland after only a day from its release.

For Westlife fanatics, we have these trivia: their cover to "Seasons in the Sun" is the group's first record to feature all members singing solo parts. Shane, Kian and Mark all went to Summer Hill College, while Nicky went to Plunket College. Brian, the tallest of the quintet, used to be fat until he started losing the excess poundage at 16.

Religious

Kian is said to be the "Romeo" of the group, while Shane is the religious one who never misses mass on Sundays.

Here are their capsule profiles: Shane (born July 5, 1979 in Sligo) is 5'9", with hazel green eyes, has three brothers and three sisters. Favorite actors: Tom Cruise/Catherine Zeta Jones. Singers: Michael Jackson, George Michael and Mariah Carey. Scent:

Polo Sports. First record bought: Billy Joel's "Uptown Girl." Previous job: hardware store clerk.

He is said to be dating Kian's cousin, Gillian Walsh. When asked if he were an animal, what would he be? "Horse," he said.

Brian (April 12, 1980 in Dublin) is 6'2", with blue eyes, has one younger sister. Actors: Leo DiCaprio and Jennifer Love Hewitt. Singers: Backstreet Boys, Brian Littrell and Mariah Carey. Scent: Dolce and Gabbana. First record: Kylie Minogue's "I Should Be So Lucky." Previous jobs: bingo caller, security at McDonald's.

He is married to Atomic Kitten's (Yes, the girl group that popularized "See You.") Kerry Katona. Daughter: Molly. If he were an animal...? He says, "Donkey... or horse."

Blue eyes

Nicky (October 9, 1978 in Dublin) is 5'9 1/2", blue eyes, has a

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

brother and a sister. Actors: Bruce Willis, Brad Pitt, Demi Moore and Cameron Diaz. Singers: Phil Collins and Natalie Imbruglia. Scent: Dolce and Gabbana. First record: Kylie's "I Should Be So Lucky."

His girlfriend is Georgina Ahern, daughter of Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern. If he were an animal...? He says, "Either a fox or a tiger."

Kian (April 29, 1980 in Sligo) is 5'10", blue eyes, has three brothers and three sisters. Actors: Brad Pitt, Cameron Diaz. Singers: Brian Littrell, Celine Dion. Scent: Joop. First record: Metallica's

After a night-out at a sing-along bar, Shane, Kian and Mark were prodded to form a band

"Glory of Love." No girlfriend at the moment. If he were an animal...? He says, "Beaver."

Mark (May 28, 1980 in Sligo) is 5'10 1/2", blue eyes, has two brothers. Actors: Eddie Murphy, Lisa Kudrow. Singers: Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey. Scent: Hugo Boss. First records: Richard Marx's "Right Here Waiting" and Billy Joel's "Uptown Girl." Previous jobs: pizza delivery, photo lab assistant. No girlfriend at the moment. If he were an animal...? He says in jest, "I would be a bird or Mariah Carey's cat!"



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Belated tribute to comedy master Channing Carlos

By Nestor U. Torre



CARLOS. True-to-life characters.

FOR many years now, we've admired the films of writer-director Luciano "Channing" Carlos. Everytime we see him, we urge him to come out of retirement and make more movies, because his comic touch has not been equalled by filmmakers today.

Edge

Channing's edge is his focus on comic situations, motivation and characterization, not the shrill and kneejerk "funny" gimmicks, brown jokes and green humor that pass for comedy today.

That's why we were happy when Channing was recently honored with a tribute at the UP Film Center. We made it a point to be present at the special event, along with other Channing colleagues or fans, led by the Comedy King himself, Dolphy.

Before the tribute to him, Channing joined other panelists in a discussion of the roots and parameters of Filipino comedy. The panelists came up with a number of astute observations that helped the largely student audience arrive at a better appreciation of comedy, Pinoy style.

Short shrift

This is an important development because, all too often, comedy is given short shrift on the local entertainment scene. Since it isn't "serious," it is not regarded as substantial.

This is way off the mark because, as any director will tell you, it's just as difficult to do comedy well than to come up with a good drama. In fact, there are those who believe that effective comedy is tougher to do than drama.

Why so? Because, in good com-

edy, you don't have any "crutches" to lean on. The humor has to succeed or fail on its own—unlike in drama, where strong emotion can make up to a certain extent for bad storytelling or motivation.

Light touch

In addition, comedy requires a light touch and precise comic timing, which can't really be learned, but are the end products of intuition, gut feel, and astute armchair psychology.

During the panel discussion, Channing was asked how he was able to come up with his rip-roaring comedy movies, which are as funny today as when they were first screened. He replied, "My characters come from my own life, and things I've observed. I believe that what happens is better than anything you can imagine."



CHANNING: "I make movies more to entertain people than to make them think."

"It's easier for your audience to relate to, and with some pointed exaggeration, it can even rise to the higher level of satire. I make movies more to entertain people than to make them think, but some of my films make them do that, too."

Properly grateful

Channing wrote and/or directed some of Dolphy's best starrers, so the Comedy King is properly grateful to him, hence his much-appreciated presence at Channing's tribute.

Towards the end of the discussion, the panelists were asked to list other outstanding comedy filmmakers, and they cited the likes of Felicing Constantino, Danny Zialcita and Ishmael Bernal. We would like to add three other names to the list: Romy Villafior, Tony Cayado, and Mar S. Torres.

Local comedy films today are too sex-and gimmick oriented to be truly funny. We need more directors like Channing Carlos and his gifted contemporaries to set things right and light on our movie screens again.

'Jologs'

From page C6

is so much that new writers can learn from them. I always make it a point to talk to the older writers whenever I get the chance."

As a freelance writer, he recently helped out in the new Judy Ann Santos-Piolo Pascual movie (working title: "Picture Mom"). "Pero hanggang sequence treatment level lang ako tumulong. I recently finished writing a full-length script na personal project ko. Now, I'm starting on another one."

Freelance

"I am happy being a freelancer. I have the option to invest my time and effort on projects that I really believe in! If you are a contractual talent, you have to write whatever they tell you."

"The down side to being a freelancer is that you have to aggressively look for writing assignments," he shares.

His advice to aspiring writers and filmmakers: "If anybody tells you you're not good enough, or that you don't have what it takes, don't believe him!"



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Asciano's debut compilation released by independent label

By Jocelyn Valle

THE current slump in recording has proven to be a boon for independent album manufacturers, observes veteran recordman Rene Salta. In the 1980s, he worked as label manager for Dyna, then he moved to Warner (1992 to '97), Star Records (1998 to June 1999) and Viva Records.

First project

Since then, he has concentrated on running a recording outfit, Mother of Asia (MOA) International, that he founded with a couple of partners in August 2001. MOA International's first project is the debut album of the band Asciano, which was recently launched at Hard Rock Café.

Salta shares that since piracy has slowed down the production of major labels, smaller players have been given more opportunities to expand their reach. For instance, radio has become friendlier to indie releases. "Mas maluwag ang radio since not many new records are coming out now," he points out.

Companies like MOA International can afford to churn out CDs and tapes and, at the same time, not be afraid of pirates because, Salta explains, unlike the established outfits that have a stable of well-paid recording stars, theirs have lesser-known but nonetheless talented artists.

10,000 units

"So ang cost namin hindi ganon kalaki," he observes. "Kaya kung makabenta ka ng 10,000 units, medyo OK na. Kung mag-hit man, naka-break even ka na bago ma-pirate."

But, Salta sees the importance of having connections with the major labels. Asciano's "In My Dreams" is distributed by Vicor Music Corporation, which gets a percentage from the album's sales. It helps in promotions and, most importantly, in securing a space in record bars.

Although one of MOA International's objectives is to become a major player in the industry, Salta says that he and his partners are not concerned about that at the moment. They are content to reach their target of two to three new releases a year.

Asked why they chose "In My Dreams" as their initial venture, Salta replies that MOA International is also Asciano's management outfit. Their other talent is Nyoy Volante, who's into R&B.

Asciano's music is described by



ASCIANO. Adult contemporary music with edge.

Veteran recordman Rene Salta shares that since piracy has slowed down the production of major labels, smaller players have been given more opportunities to expand their reach

Salta as "adult contemporary with edge." He adds that the band's repertoire is too wide to be classified as one type of music.

11 tracks

Checking out the 11 tracks of "In My Dreams," we get an idea of what Salta means: It has reggae (the first song, "Sailor Girl"), and a combination of folk, folk-rock, country, blues and pop in "The Best," "Sexy Mama," "She's Got Me Hooked," "Young Girl" and "I Won't Quit."

"Helping Hand" is a ballad reminiscent of one of Michael Bolton's hits, complete with solo sax. "En Mi Sueño" is perfect for a sexy Latin dance for two. The band's version of Carole King's "It's Too Late" still sounds fresh and engaging, no matter how many times you've heard the original and its other interpretations.

"Why Can't We Be Friends" and "You Made Me So Very Happy" are likewise more accessible to listeners of pop (the majority of FM radio tuners).

In Asciano's regular gigs (usually

in Bedrock and Shiraz in Makati, and Fat Tuesdays in Alabang), the band covers more musical genres. At their album launch, for instance, they chose to open the special show with The Doors' fiery hit.

Seven members

The band's diversity of sound can be "blamed" on the seven men who comprise Asciano: Topher Cailao (vocals, backing vocals, acoustic guitar), Butch Montejito (vocals, percussion), Al Cobarrubia (bass, backing vocals), Boyet Puro (electric and nylon guitars, backing vocals), Teddy Tipon (drums, trumpet, flugelhorn), Tony Casil (keyboard) and Aldos Ramento (second percussion).

Each has an extensive background in music and they've been around for years, either playing for other bands or doing solo work. It was only last year when they got together to formally form the band. They might be reading the minds of music lovers weary of what they usually hear on radio, something that the pirates don't get—yet!

Work enables and empowers

DEAR Clara,

There was a time I kept telling myself, I had to labor and toil really hard to save up enough money so my children didn't have to work a single day in their lives. I now realize, of course, how so badly skewed my thinking then was.

Of course, the most obvious of the work is to enable us to fulfill our material dreams—but there's so much more to it than that. We have to work for us to experience the fullness of the joy that comes, not only from savoring the fruits of our labor but, more significantly, from the labor itself.

Capacity to create

Work enables and empowers. It affirms our capacity to create, to make something from nothing, and thereby affirm our true nature of having been created in the image and likeness of God, the Creator.

In this context, we work to have worth, to have a reason for being, to have meaning in our lives. Ultimately, we work in order for us to matter—to ourselves, to the people we love, to the world we live in, and to God, to whom we belong.

You know what, Clara? I'm glad that, after you've run the entire gamut of adolescent ambitions—from scientist to astronaut, ballet dancer, teacher, lawyer—you are now more or less settled on wanting to become a doctor, a pediatrician. Now that you know what you want, you can proceed to finding out how best to get there.

Wisdom

In this regard, I have the honor to present to you certain thoughts that have been handed down to me by your Lolo Nich and others like him, who were gifted with knowledge, wisdom and deep understanding. I benefited from them. So will you:

Neither be afraid nor ashamed of hard work. For one, it not only empowers you physically, it also pumps up your mental and emotional muscles. Manu... or is not only for those with lesser aptitudes—it is precisely also for those with superior intelligence, not just to equip them with the values of discipline and forbearance but, more crucially, also to temper their conceit and bloated sense of self-importance.

I began my career in broadcasting as a time check girl at DZRM. I had to stay in the studio from sign on to sign off, as I had to announce the time of day every hour on the hour. I had to wake up very early and sleep very late. And I had to commute—as in, ride a bus and a jeepney—from our house then in Bo. Kapitolyo, Pasig to the studio on Arroceros st., Intramuros, Manila. And, take note, I received not a single centavo for my efforts!

Later, they made me a pinchhitter. I took over the announcing or deejaying chores of whoever either fell ill or had a bad-hair day, or just woke up on the wrong side of the bed and decided not to report for work. Still no wages!

Turntable

When I transferred to DWOL on Avenida, I was first assigned to the dedication portion—I played records on the turntable and read the names of the people to whom the songs have been dedicated by listeners who called in.

Finally, I was given a program I could finally call my very own—"Dito, Doon at Kahit Na Saan"—a public service 60-minuter liberally splashed with show biz news.

Don't think of the money yet. Be a sponge. Absorb everything. Reject nothing. You can learn something both from the good and the bad, which will surely happen, anyway. When you're just embarking on a career, do not make remuneration the deciding factor in your choice of a job. Think of challenges, learning curves, potential contacts in the people you'll meet.

And don't complain about the load of work given to you in relation to how much you'll be paid for doing it. I remember what your Lolo Nich told me when he saw me one time, spent and bedraggled from too much work. He draped his arm on my shoulders and said, "Don't worry about being overworked but underpaid. Time will come, you will be working less and less for more and more money."

Besides, when you complain about how little you are being paid for the amount of work you

FACE TO FACE



Inday Badiday

pour into your job, you rob yourself of the joy of your accomplishments. Your work becomes hard labor, drudgery—and you grow old faster than your bosses who, you believe, have made it their mission in life to make your life miserable.

Decision

Dear Clara, happiness is a decision. No matter how distasteful and physically tiring a job is, you should not allow it to steal your joy away from you. It is all in how you condition your mind for it.

Thrive on hardship! Flourish in the face of even the most arduous difficulty. Flowers planted in muck are healthier and bloom faster. Besides, rewards are sweeter when the toil has been greater.

Don't allow your inexperience or lack of knowledge to come between you and success. Everybody begins somewhere. And everyone starts out not knowing a lot about the things they have the gifts to excel in. When opportunity knocks, grab it. Don't even think twice. Hop on, before it gallops away. You can always learn the ropes while astride the raging stallion to your dreams. Don't be afraid to take risks.

I'm not telling you to be reckless and later suffer the backlash of your folly. But you should learn to develop courage, and fire up your convictions. And you can only do this after you have enslaved your fears. In other words, make your fears work for—not against—you. Let them make you strong not weak, resilient not spineless, tenacious not easily frustrated. Your fears are best transformed into the engine that will propel you to the heights of your hopes and ambitions.

Experience

It's entirely possible, of course, that the thing you got yourself into wasn't really meant for you. But then, you'll never know that unless you get into it first, right? Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Besides, you can always move on later—but not after you've already learned immeasurably from the experience.

I remember, I was already very happy with radio—my first love to this very day—when KBS honcho Kitchie Benedicto broached the preposterous idea of putting me on television to host a show biz-oriented talk show. But I didn't balk. I took it on - if only for the exciting ride I knew it would be. The rest, at the risk of being prosaic, is history.

Anything that should be done needs to be done well. Conversely, whatever is not worth doing well is not worth doing at all. Otherwise, you'll just end up spending more time, effort and resources repairing something than when you first did it.

More importantly, realize that your work is your signature. It speaks about you—not just what you are, but also what you stand for.

Your work also is your best advertisement for more work! A pattern of work badly done is a guarantee of future joblessness and penury.

Work is not only about results, it is also about people. Learn to be both functional and relational at the same time. Balance efficiency with effectiveness. (Efficiency is doing things right; effectiveness is doing the right things.)

It does no good for you to excel but lose a friend - but, of course, it is also unfair for your performance to dip to favor other people. It's a pretty tricky balancing act, but once you've mastered it, you have opened the portals to success.

Lasting friendship

Know the people around you well. Learn about their family, the school they came from, their sports and hobbies. Find out the names of their pets. Be acquainted with their laughter as well as their tears. This way, you open yourself to the infinite delights of true, lasting friendships.

Also learn to work well with your friends. Discover their strengths and weaknesses, where they draw inspiration, how they see themselves in 10 years' time, what galvanizes them to action, and what paralyzes them to ineptitude.

In other words, bring out the best in them and make them a part of the team. This way, they will make your own burdens lighter, and working with them becomes a real source of gladness.

Don't be bossy when you're not yet the boss—but, most especially, when you already are. (To be concluded)

For your comments, insights, questions, and suggestions—badids2000@yahoo.com

'Jologs' writer is a real winner

By Rica Arevalo

STAR Cinema's "Jologs" is a welcome treat for moviegoers who are sick and tired of the weekly bombardment of badly-done 'bold films. Director Gilbert Perez and cinematographer Miguel Fabie did their work well but it is the script of Edward "Ned" Trespeces that should be commended.

Seminary

Trespeces spent his high school years inside a seminary in Jaro, Iloilo. He had no access to television so he spent his time reading books. There, within the quiet walls of the seminary, his love for writing grew. He then took up Film at UP Diliman. After graduation, he worked as a video editor for GMA-7, but got restless. He quit his job to pursue his true calling as a scriptwriter.

"Jologs" is his first solo movie credit but he was earlier involved in the Eddie Garcia starer, "Sanggano't Sanggago." Winning the Star Cinema scriptwriting contest gave him his biggest break.

"I originally did not write 'Jologs' as a comedy. Medyo melodramatic pa nga ang original intention ko. Pero somehow, as I was writing it, the humor naturally went into the material," shares Trespeces.

Teenagers

He wanted to write about teenagers living in a third world setting. He based his script on the people he knew—his friends and acquaintances



TRESPECES. His film is about teenagers living in a third-world setting.

different people. Some use it in a derogatory way to put down other people and air their own biases towards others. But there are some who wear it like a badge of honor," observes Trespeces.

How different is "Jologs" from other youth-oriented films? He answers, "I would like to think that 'Jologs' does not talk down to its target audience (i.e. the young people). It respects the audience."

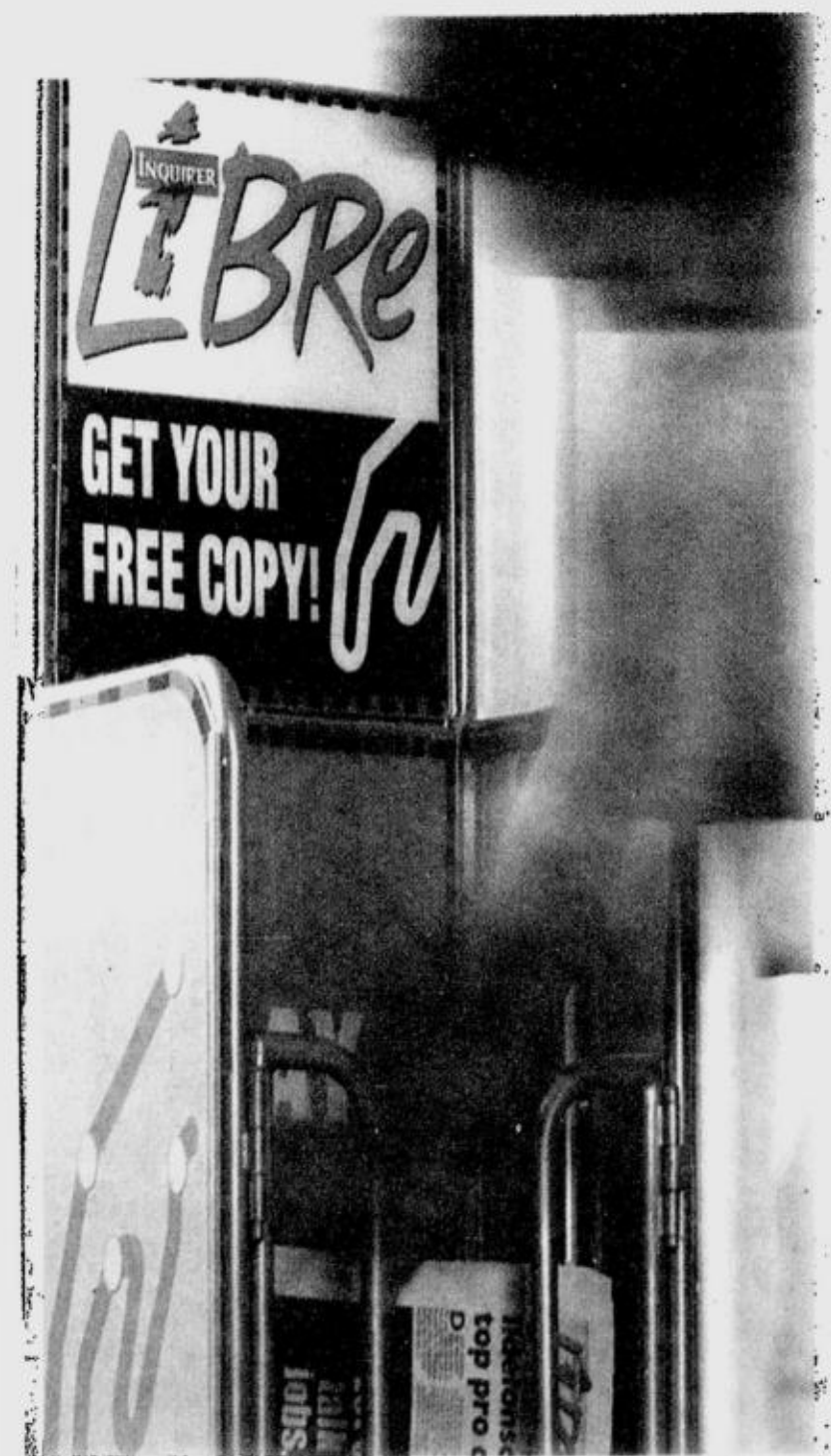
New writers

He stresses, "I think it is a good time for new writers to break into the movie industry. I don't know why, but there seems to be a demand for new blood. As for the 'oldtimers,' I feel that there

JOLOGS/CS

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LIBRE

The best things in life are Libre

Mourning with other fans of Rudolf Valentino — 76 years later

By Behn Cervantes

WHEN the greatest lover of silent films suddenly died of appendicitis in 1926, the whole world was shocked. Thousands of fans became hysterical, some committed suicide while still others just went bonkers with uncontained sorrow. His unexpected death was front-page material in every corner of the world enraptured by cinema, the greatest dream-maker medium of all.

Women

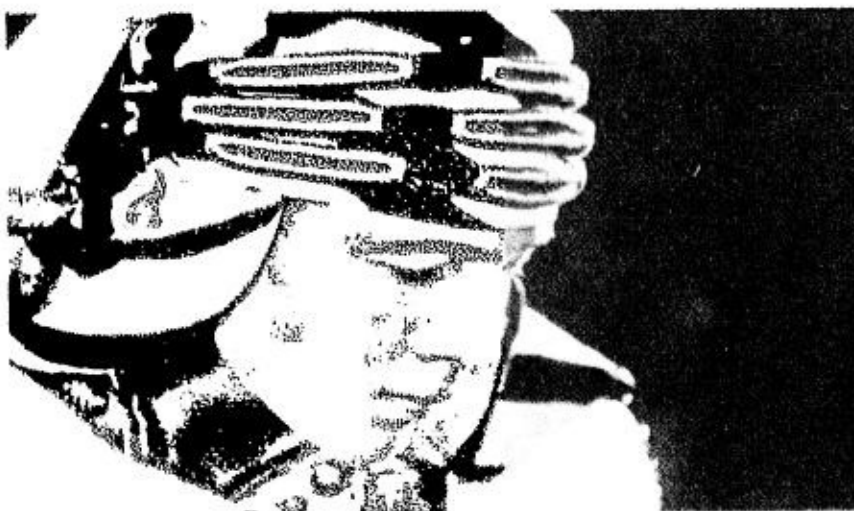
There were even women who claimed they carried his child, no matter if it was a good three years after his death.

Rudolph Valentino was The Sheik, the matador in the original "Blood and Sand," the bothered young man in "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse." He was also the debonair Monsieur Beaucaire. In effect, he was the romantic and sexual fantasy of every female moviegoer of that era. He was also the envy of the men in their lives.

He was indeed the foremost male sex symbol of cinema. In retrospect, no one has come up to his inexplicable standard and unrivaled sexual repute.

Mac del Fierro, my Los Angeles host, recently showed me the things I like to see as a tourist. We had gone through deserts, driven through verdant mountains, seen the prestigious campus of Cal Tech that regularly produces Nobel Prize contenders and enjoyed shooting the breeze in Ritz Carlton's coffee shop in posh Laguna Beach. One day, he said he would drive me through farmland in his new Mercedes Benz, no less. I was certainly amenable to the arrangements!

Loyal fans



However, when I picked up the newspapers, I read that a group of Valentino's loyal fans were going to host a ceremony on his 76th death anniversary. It would take place at 12:10 p.m., the exact time of his demise. Naturally, it pricked my fancy. Could we go to this event instead? Was Hollywood Forever Memorial Park too far? Too much of a problem? No, no, no, said Mac to every question I posed. All I had to do was get the directions. I did. We prepared to go to 6000 Sta. Monica, where we would join a motley band of Valentino fans to mark his 76th death anniversary.

Mac is a long-time resident of the City of the Angels, so we got to the memorial park two hours before the ceremony. The lady guide was most helpful but the mausoleum was not ready for the rites, so we had to walk around the park as fans brought in Valentino memorabilia—posters, photos and other priceless mementos.

While looking around I saw the marble slab identifying The Human Fly. I was so

preoccupied with the Valentino cult that his name escaped me.

Rites

Douglas Fairbanks and other famous stars are also buried in the rather large park but I was there for the Valentino's rites. I was caught up by the increasing excitement in the air. I didn't want to lose focus. Instead, I suggested to Mac we stick around the mausoleum so we could obtain choice seats. We did.

I immediately saw 87-year-old Bob Mitchell, reputed to be the oldest surviving organ player for silent-movie screenings. In the '20s, organ players dramatically accompanied the action on the screen, be it romantic, threatening or action-filled.

Before too long, Ken Rimo, a tenor, came to Mitchell's side to rehearse his two numbers—"The Sheik of Araby" and "Kashmiri," two songs associated with Valentino films. Rimo is well into his 70s (or, 80s?) but he hit those high notes in the distinctive frilly manner of the '30s. He

was confident in manner and executed the difficult sections with great precision.

The elderly Mitchell played that organ with elan. He always ended the pieces with bombast and one last, dramatic musical

turn—what we call a *pahabol* in the Philippines. When he went to rest and talk to the organizers, I noticed his right foot had no shoe. He obviously played better without a shoe on that foot. (To be concluded)

VALENTINO. The romantic and sexual fantasy of female moviegoers of the 1920s.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1551, Series of 2002

Gary V performs . . . From page C3

moviehouse. "But If you want to create things, you can experiment!" he says, his eyes lighting up.

Samar concert

We noticed that after the opening day of his concert, he will skip the next Friday which falls on Sept. 13 so we asked if he was superstitious. No, said the singer, he'll be going to Catbalogan, Samar for a concert.

"I always make it a point to go to places that I've never been to," he says. He believes that other local artists should do the same thing because it brings such joy to audiences in the province.

According to Gary's experience, there are two kinds of audiences in the province. He acknowledges that the provincial audience is not that easy to please. The first group, he says, is the kind that is too stunned or in awe to react. But he says that eventually, he is able to break the ice by talking to them and having fun with them.

The second kind, Gary observes, "They really get into it, beginning *pa lang*."

Proud father

The expression on his face changes when he is asked about his son, Paolo, who is one of the lead actors in Trumpets' musical, "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe." "You should see my son onstage," says the father, bursting with pride, "You should hear his voice, because it's so different from mine, but it's so cute. It's so pure!"

Gary discloses that in the past, Paolo felt overshadowed by his younger brother Gab, who would "come out and dance, get all the attention, while Paolo would be in the sidelines. Plus he would get teased *pa* by some of the people, 'Ano, kaya mo iyan?' So I talked to him, 'Your star is meant to shine at another time, and when it does, you have to be ready for it. And be responsible to accept what people have already given you.'

For details about the concert, call 551-7777.

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Celebrity teens follow in their famous parents' footsteps



GUTIERREZ. Has conquered his fears.



EIGENMANN. Comfortable emoting for the camera.

By Jocelyn Valle

GROWING up in a show biz family is no big deal to AJ Eigenmann, 17. He's used to seeing his parents, Michael de Mesa and Gina Alajar, on TV and he'd been reminded by them that his grandfather, Eddie Mesa, used to be called the Elvis Presley of the Philippines.

"Pero before," he recalls, "na-trauma ako sa mga fans. Kapag lumalabas kasi kami, biglang may magpapapicture. Walang paalam talaga."

Controversy

Richard Gutierrez, 18, on the

other hand, doesn't let himself get affected by his family's show biz dealings, especially the ones involving his mom Annabelle Rama and sister Ruffa Gutierrez, knowing that they can handle controversy well.

Meanwhile, Bryan Revilla, 15, is happier now that his dad Bong Revilla and mom Lani Mercado are out of politics till he remembers that his father heads the Videogram Regulatory Board that is tasked to stamp out piracy in the country—and he starts getting worried again.

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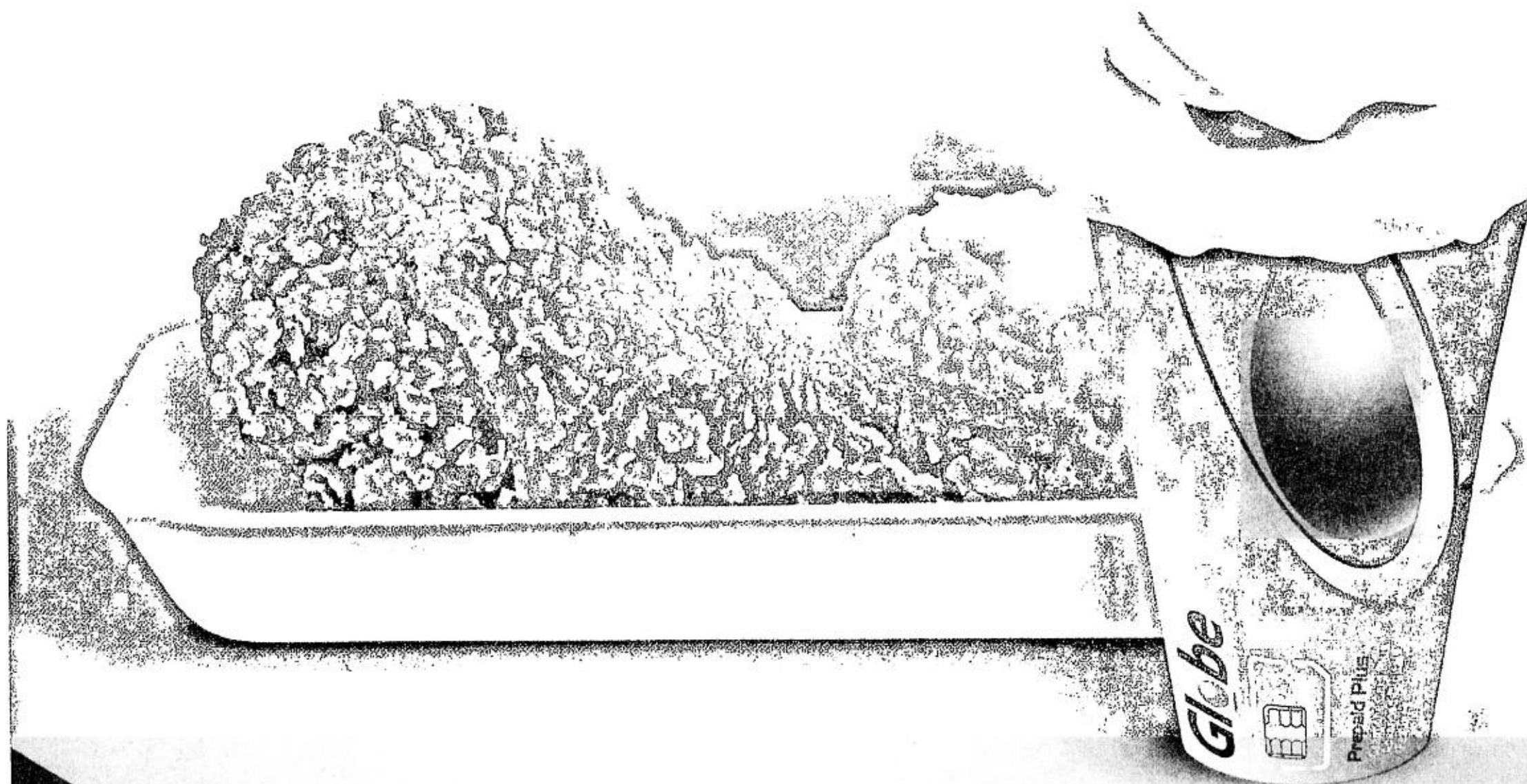
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HANDYPHONE

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1571, Series of 2002

TV series combines legal savvy and lots of heart

ON US TV, "The Guardian" has gotten impressive ratings for a new legal series. It has attracted more than 15 million viewers, making it a top hit on the CBS network.

In the Philippines, it is now seen on the Hallmark Channel every Sunday at 8 p.m., and has also been clicking with viewers since it started airing here last July.

What does the TV audience like about "The Guardian"? It exudes a lot of legal savvy, but it's also got lots of heart. Now, that's a winning combination.

In the inspiring series, Simon Baker plays Nick Fallin, a high-powered lawyer. His life takes a 180-degree turn when a drug rap leads to 1,500 hours of community service.

Fallin's transformation starts when the heretofore materialistic corporate lawyer is assigned to defend and protect the young wards of a legal aid center for children.

In the States, Baker has gotten good reviews for his performance in "The Guardian": "Baker steals the CBS drama"—New York Daily News. "Baker is stonily perfect in 'The Guardian'—Los Angeles Times.

Also getting his share of praise is Dabney Coleman, who plays Fallin's father: "Coleman gives a

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



welcome and refreshing performance"—UPI.

As for the show itself, it has been certified as a hit by The New York Times. (The Hallmark Channel is seen locally on Sky, Destiny, and Home Cable.)

ABS-CBN workshops

ABS-CBN's Center for Communication Arts offers these new workshops for the third quarter of 2002:

Ongoing until Nov. 10, a Hosting Workshop under Boy Abunda (10 consecutive Sundays).

Ongoing until Oct. 27, a Public Relations Workshop under Lawrence Tan and Pat-P Daza Planas (six consecutive Mondays).

Ongoing until Oct. 2, a TV Production and Marketing Strategies Workshop, under Jay Montelibano (10 sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays).

Ongoing until Nov. 21, a Basic Acting Workshop under Beverly Vergel (13 Thursday sessions).

From Aug. 31 until Nov. 9, an Advanced Acting Workshop, also under Vergel (10 Saturdays).

There will also be courses like Performing Arts for Children, and Basic Acting for Children and Teens. Call 415-3828.

'Be Not Afraid'

The Jesuit Music Ministry proudly presents "Be Not Afraid," the latest in Bro. Arnel Aquino, S.J.'s Lauds series.

With songs like "Be Not Afraid" and "Yahweh, The Faithful One," we come to know a God whose love withstands all pain and loneliness. And we raise our voices in thanks and praise with "Let Heaven Rejoice," "Sing a New Song" and "Sing to the Mountains."

"Be Not Afraid" will be launched on Sept. 13 at the Church of the Gesù at Ateneo de Manila University. The launch will take the form of Evening Prayers. The prayers will be punctuated by musical numbers from Aquino and Himig Heswita.

"Total Recall"

All Ateneans and Lourdesians of Cagayan de Oro City are invited to attend a grand reunion, "Total Recall," at 6 p.m. on Sept. 28 at the Villamor Golf Club in Pasay City.

Please contact Bopeep Muñoz Sayo ((02-8251509 or 0919353-1498), Elena Mabuhay Rivera (02-8718248 or 09177951718) or Felipe V. Neri (office telefax 02-8513035 or 0918-9050476).

Daria Ramirez in 'Bakat'

We're glad to see that Daria Ramirez is playing a supporting role in Seiko Films' latest production, "Bakat." To our mind, Daria is one of the most overlooked and under-utilized veteran talents we have.

We hope that her performance in "Bakat" will remind other producers to cast her in their movies, as well!

Bo Razon at The Podium

Bo Razon, the country's foremost exponent of Afro-Latin music, opens the fifth season of The World Music at the second level of The Podium at Ortigas Center at 5 p.m. today, Aug. 31.

Bo will perform and annotate Afro-Cuban, Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Brazilian numbers in an intimate soiree that encourages interaction between him and his audience. He will be joined by percussion students from the UP School of Music.

Bo has taken master classes at the Escuela Nacional del Arte in Cuba, where he had the opportunity to play with musicians from Nigeria, Sierra Leone and South Africa. Currently, he teaches at the UP College of Music and holds clinics and workshops on Afro-Latin music.

The first TWM concert is pre-



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sented by Montre, and co-presented by Rado, Tissot and Mido watches of Switzerland.

Feedback

From Jose Mari C. Maycacayan of Binangonan, Rizal: "Your column is really great. I admire your views on television and movies. I really want to see new and fresh talents on TV and in the film industry."

"I want to know your favorite Tagalog films. In my view, the best Tagalog films are 'Tanging Yaman,' 'Himala,' 'Magkano ang Iyong Dangkal,' 'Pagputi ng Uwak,' 'Pag-itim ng Tagak,' 'Haplos,' 'Kung Mahawi Man ang Ulap,' 'Mulanay,' 'Gaano Kadalas ang Min-

san,' 'My Other Woman,' 'Init sa Magdamag,' and 'Private Show.'

"My favorite actors are Dindo Fernando and Christopher de Leon. My favorite actresses: Hilda Koronel, Jacklyn Jose and Mona Lisa.

"I believe that a good film or TV show starts with an excellent script. We should really support and give breaks to outstanding writers.

"TV and film producers should form fresh star combinations. They should avoid the old, tired and clichéd. And they should tap the talents of creative theater artists.

"Keep up the good work!"

Celebrity teens follow in their famous parents' footsteps

From page D1

'Click'

All three celebrity teens are bent on following in their folks' footsteps. They were recently introduced on Channel 7's Saturday-afternoon teen program, "Click." (Their costars are original cast members Danica Sotto, Alessandra de Rossi, Chynna Ortaleza, Tricia Roman and Sherwin Ordoñez, and newcomers Karen delos Reyes, Railey Valeroso, Angel Locsin and Dyan Delfin.)

AJ and Richard are also in the casts of GMA-7's soap operas "Ang Ibibig ay Ikaw" and "Ikaw

Lang ang Mamahalin," respectively. But both prefer their stints on "Click" because, they chorus, it's light and fun. "On and off cam, masaya ang group!" AJ enthuses.

Richard has been away from the klieg lights. His last appearances were when he was still a tot, as one-half of the cute and precocious Gutierrez twins who made a number of hit comedies. When he gets to see his old flicks, Richard laughs in disbelief: "Hindi ko alam kung paano namin nagawa 'yun!"

Naturally, he felt anxious on his first taping days (Friday on "Ikaw Lang" and on "Click" the



REVILLA. Wants to become an action star like his dad.

following day). Fortunately, the "Click" production staff had prepared a two-day workshop, facilitated by Gina Alajar, and it helped Richard conquer his fears.

Workshops

For his part, AJ shares that his mom has been giving him acting workshops long before the "Click" offer came to him. "At first nahirapan ako," he admits, "kasi 'di ba sa acting, kailangan mong mag-open up? E, mommy ko kasi siya, so mahirap."

Now, AJ says, he's accepted the demands of the craft, that's why he's become comfortable emoting for the camera. He adds that

his mom still gives him advice whenever she catches one of his performances on TV.

But they don't watch his shows together. "Gusto ko kasi, ako lang mag-isa ang nanonood," he blushes, explaining that he still gets embarrassed seeing himself on the small screen.

His face lights up when asked if he also aims to win acting awards. He wants to be as popular as Aga Muhlach, he grins. So, he'd like to be both an actor and a star.

Pressure

AJ points out, though, that while there are more advantages in having celebrity relatives, the pressure is also greater to prove

to the public that he can match their achievements.

Richard and Bryan agree. "So we really have to work hard," Bryan intones, especially since he aspires to become an action star like his father.

Ditto for Richard, though he inherited his father Eddie Gutierrez's matinee-idol good looks. (Incidentally, Richard was able to shed his baby fat by getting involved in sports like boxing and basketball.)

"Gusto ko 'yung action-adventure na parang 'Gladiator,'" he smiles, citing Nicolas Cage and Harrison Ford as his favorite actors.

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Japanese-to-go cuisine at Kitaro

JAPANESE cuisine, known for its healthful properties, has won many adherents all over the world—including the Philippines.

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Progeny

Conceived by Jimmy Sycip, Kitaro was born in 1999. It was the progeny of the New Tokyo House, which Jimmy owned and managed with his two sisters, Grace and Addie.

With the emerging yuppie market and the changing taste of upwardly-mobile Filipinos, the

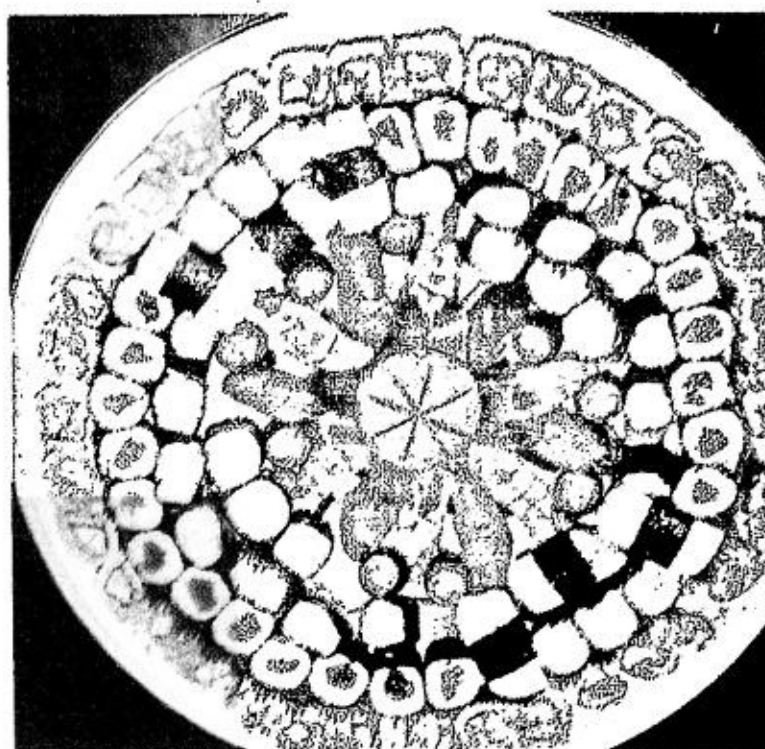
STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

owners saw the fine dining set-up of their restaurant metamorphosing into casual dining. "We knew the time was ripe for change," recalls Jimmy. Thus, Kitaro came to be.

Wide array

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KITARO'S wide array of sushi, maki, sashimi ang tamaki.

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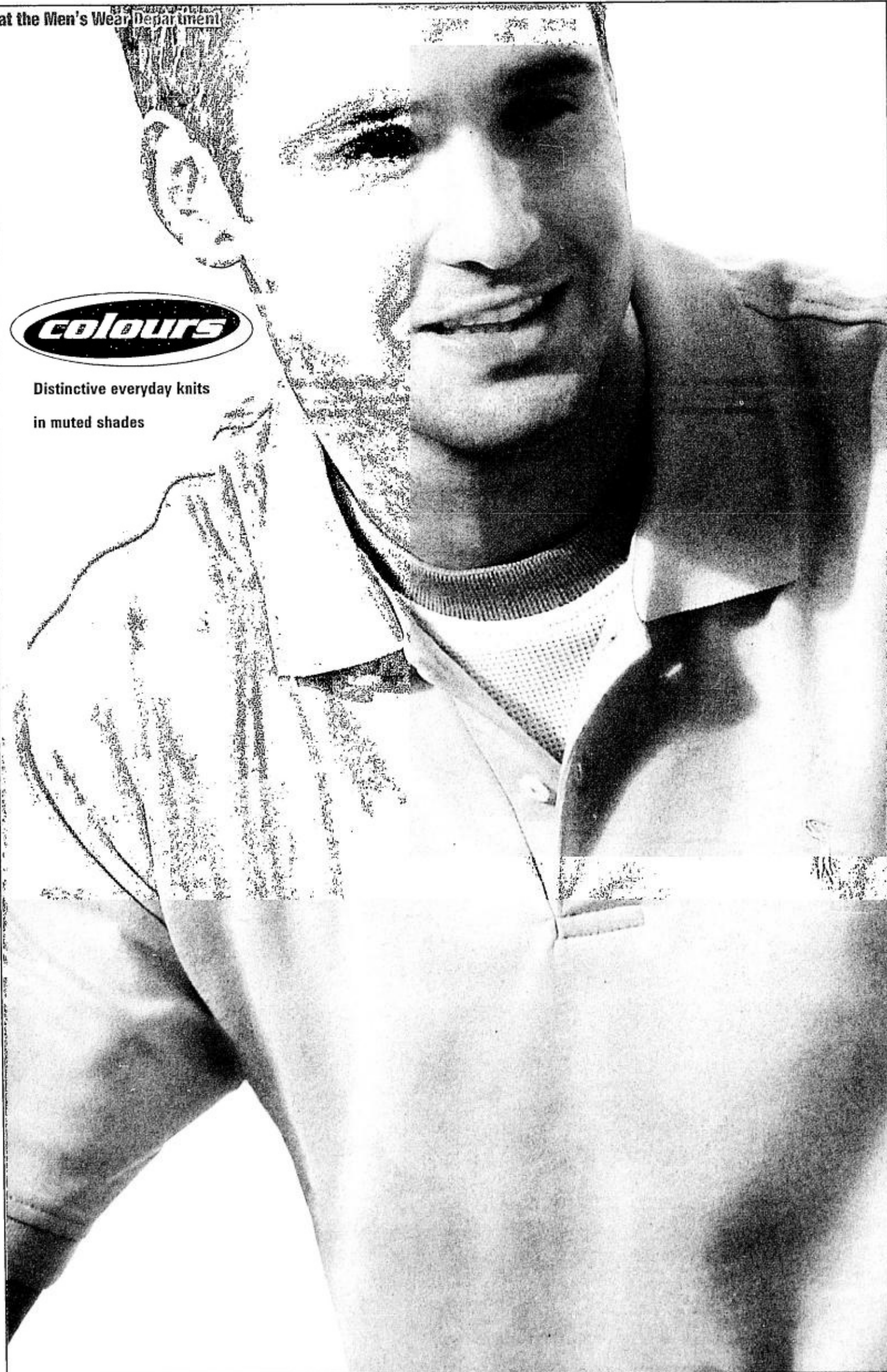


THE RESTAURANT'S fine-dining set-up metamorphosed into casual dining.

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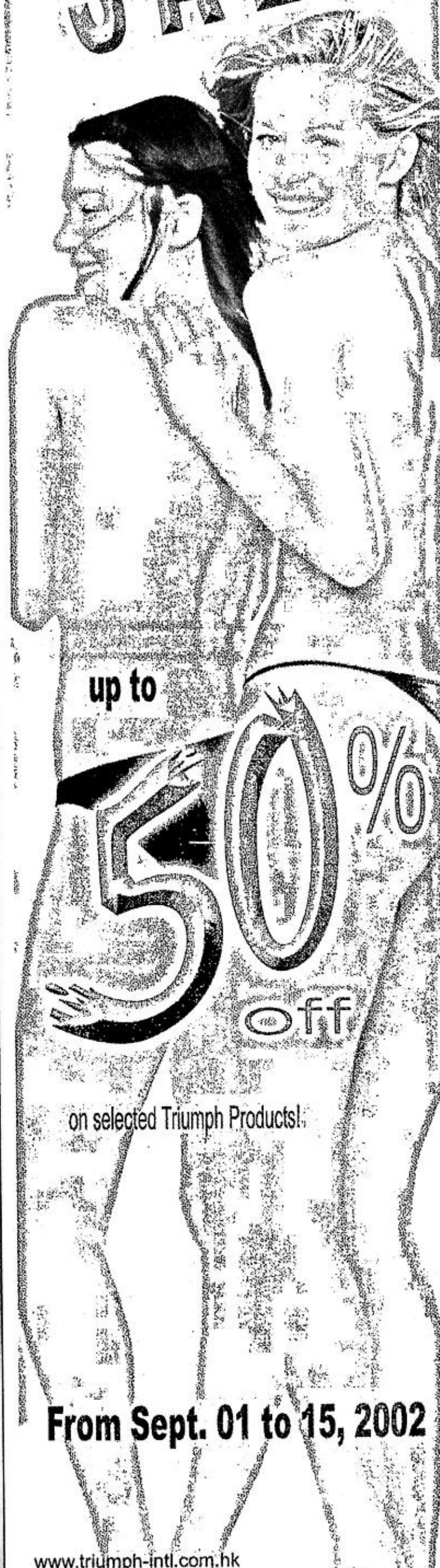
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OCAMPO. Grew up without a father.

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Diether has depth and substance

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

SOME viewers feel that Diether Ocampo is just a typical boy-next-door actor, he's pretty but bland. Upon closer inspection, though, you'll discover that his "hunty" looks complement his roguish, intense presence. Yes, he has depth and substance.

He grew up without a father and was brought up by his conservative grandmother and aunts. He needed a father to guide him during his formative years, but his dad died early so he had to cope and learn on his own.

"Maybe that's the reason why I developed an inferiority complex when I was growing up. I was confused. I didn't know what to do with my life. I was so full of insecurities then. I felt misunderstood. I was so shy," Diether reveals.

He took up physical therapy at De La Salle Cavite, though he never really liked the course. He wanted to pursue a career in Fine Arts because he liked to draw, but his family was against it.

His restlessness led him to bar-tendering at Steel Bar, Quezon City. "I met directors, production crew and talent managers who urged me to try show biz," he grins.

He auditioned for ABS-CBN's talent search in 1996 and was launched as a member of Star Circle Batch 2.

His struggling days as a working student and "bum" gave him adequate angst and depth to portray dramatic roles.

He credits his stints on soap operas like "Mula sa Puso" and "Saan Ka Man Naroroon" for honing his acting talent.

His patience gave him the opportunity to be paired with Maricel Soriano in "Soltera." Next, he romanced Rosanna Roces in "La Vida Rosa."

In his new film, "Jologs," Diether plays a security guard. His role reminds him of his struggling years, so he empathizes with it completely.

Diether believes that director Gilbert Perez's penchant for real emotions and exact details benefits his actors.

There's an intense, serious, sensitive, sensual side to Diether that makes him "dangerous" and vulnerable at the same time. Clearly, not just a typical boy-next-door leading man!

Gary V takes advantage of the concert boom

Now that the concert scene is booming again, Gary V is out to prove that he's regained his standing, with a four-night series billed "Gary V: Hits Onstage" scheduled on September 6, 20, 27 and 28.

He's excited about dishing out hit after hit in the forthcoming show. "The concept is good, there'll be my all-time favorites, hits that have moved me and hits that I wish I wrote. It's gonna be something different this time," he promises.

Lousy film titles on the loose

Maybe the real state of the film industry can be mirrored by the lousy titles that producers use to desperately sell their films. Lately, it's a toss up between food and song titles.

We can understand the rationale behind the use of titles of hit songs because these already have recall and the songs can also be used as promotional tools, like what they did with "Got2Believe" and "Forever." But, can't they squeeze their creative juices further and come up with more original titles, specially in the case of big movie outfits that have creative teams on their payroll?

But the food-oriented ones just send us cringing. How pathetic these titles sound: "Kangkong," "Buko Pandan," "Tikim," "American Adobo," "Bibingka," "Idog." And now, titles have become sluttier, with the likes of "Bakar" and "Laman," which incidentally was X-ed twice recently by the new MTRCB, although the people behind it insist that it is a "serious" masterpiece. Yeah, right.

No matter how much people deny it, there is malicious intent in selecting double-meaning titles, most of which have sleazy connotations to them. Robbie Tan of Seiko continues to reign with his movies that launch virtual hubaderos and hubaderas to lead players.

When Seiko was new, Tan's magic worked because some of the actors he launched truly had potential and the capability to cross over to more serious acting. But for some years now, the actors he gives breaks to are as stiff as rods.

For comedians, Edinburgh is the ultimate challenge

By Paul Majendie

EDINBURGH—For stand-up comedians, Edinburgh's Fringe Festival offers the ultimate challenge—to tickle the fans and tempt talent scouts to launch them on the road to fame.

Zany extravaganza

From as far afield as Australia and America, they pour into the Scottish capital to launch a three-week bid for glory at the zany extravaganza billed as the world's largest arts festival.

Almost 350 comedians are trying their luck this year and festival director Paul Gudin admires their optimism at the Fringe, which helped to launch the careers of Oscar-winning actress Emma Thompson and comedian Dudley Moore.

"There is enormous pressure. It is a real stamina test as well as a test of character," Gudin told Reuters.

"The Fringe is a peculiarly heady mixture for them. You become the center of attention for the arts and entertainment industry who are there to find the next big thing," he said.

For the Fringe offers one surefire bet for comedians seeking instant fame—this is the 21st year of Britain's prestigious Perrier Comedy Awards which have proved to be the perfect launchpad for many a burgeoning career.

Hope springs eternal in the heart of every stand-up comedian but Edinburgh can be hell as well as heaven.

Cruel

"If it is not going well, it can be a very cruel and harsh environment," Gudin said. "Consider a runner or a footballer having to perform under the spotlight for that long." Anarchy reigns supreme at Edinburgh 2002—from drag queen Tina C's Twin Towers tribute to "Mrs. Armstrong and Her Amazing Naked Samoans." American comedian Rich Hall is out to prove, tongue firmly in cheek, that George W. Bush is the greatest US President of all time.

You can even sign on for the ultimate Fringe experience: "Develop your stand-up skills in just five days in an acclaimed comedy course." The comedian must rank as the ultimate masochist, standing alone every night on a bare stage trying to make total strangers laugh.

Addictive

But it is addictive. British comedian Chris Addison, back for another dose of agony this year, is the first to confess: "Nothing else this trivial creates so many semi-permanent basket cases."

However not everybody is rolling in the aisles at the Fringe as festival fatigue sets in amid weary fans trudging from show to show.

Guardian newspaper critic Michael Billington frostily complained: "The Fringe has turned into a monstrous mixture of trade fair, rat race, audition center and showcase for sensation-seekers out to catch the gullible media."



THOMPSON. The Fringe Festival helped launch her performing career.

Reuters

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'ILLUSIONE...ENCORE'

Happy and unapologetically gay

By Marge C. Enriquez

FRIENDS who have known Douglas Nierras since college days point out that the choreographer-director has a profound, albeit philosophical side to him.

Substance

He always puts substance into his works whether it's a major concert at the CCP, or a *raket* like a corporate event or product launch.

In his version of "Illusione... Encore," he raises the drag show to a celebration of individuality and self-expression. The previous "Illusione" was a series of impersonations of foreign and local pop divas. To a jaded audience that had grown accustomed to impersonations from the days of Coco Banana and Blue Cafe, the numbers didn't present any novelty, except for the spoof of "Swan Lake, Act 2."

Working from a psychological

palette that ranges from repression to total liberation and self-acceptance, Nierras recasts the musical revue into a contemporary story of a young urban professional who enjoys finally enjoying being gay, and savors it without any apologies.

Without any intermission, the two-hour "Illusione...Encore" steadily unfolds to reveal a funny yet realistic view of homosexuality in the Zeros.

Closet queen

Previously, gays were stereotyped as *parloristas*, drag queens, limp-wristed *modistos* or cheap imitations of women in men's clothes. Amel Ignacio's character lampoons the *desenteng bakla* or the professional who is a closet queen (and as the script goes, brings the whole closet with him.).

He plays a 35-year-old bachelor who still lives with his mother. She is totally clueless that her son

is gay despite the fact he works in the fashion industry and he hasn't had a serious relationship with a female.

There are other new characters who deliver short monologues such as the cross-dresser "Bernadette" who talks about her son, an "heiress apparent" and Ignacio's stud of an ex-boyfriend.

"Illusione... Encore" has retained some of the numbers from the original version, such as the Broadway numbers, Manila's proponent of gay impersonation James Cooper, and the white ballet. Now they serve as musical numbers in a gay bar, frequented by Ignacio's character and his friends.

In denial

In the gay bar, some of his friends are still in denial until they see the corps of gay dancers and start joining the fun. Eventually Ignacio spots his old flame. Like a woman, he debates

whether he should snub his ex or not. They end up on a one-night stand, but Ignacio gets dumped again. He ponders on his fate and seeks the "goddesses" for advice. In the end, he chucks in his slacks and tie for a blonde wig and white halter dress.

Nierras makes unselfconscious use of metaphor and symbolisms, such as setting the gay bar as a place of refuge from real life; dancers wearing two-sided masks in "Magic to Do" to denote the male/female dichotomy; the depiction of voyeurism as the ex-boyfriend strips behind a screen; divas lasciviously caressing their private parts as if enjoying their "femininity."

As Ignacio emerges from the bedroom to recite his soliloquy to the goddesses, he is swathed in bedsheets that turn into giant swags of fabric draped from the

HAPPY/D6



JAMES Cooper as Carol Channing in "Hello Dolly."

ROMY HOMILLADA

Asian films show the way

By Nestor U. Torre

BORED with the usual, age-old Filipino film formats? Some Asian filmmakers are more innovative, as these sample plotlines of recent movies indicate. Let's hope that our filmmakers take their cue from them and venture into less formulaic territory in their forthcoming productions:

Addiction

"Quitting" By Zhang Yang. Lead actor Jia Hongsheng plays himself as he reenacts the different stages of his own drug addiction, and the pain his family went through while trying to help him for seven long years.

The actor epitomizes the younger generation in China, who went through radical social change between the late '80s and early '90s. All of the people who appear in this film play themselves.

Relatives

"Maya" by Digvijay Singh. A coming-of-age drama set in India, the film shows what happens when a 12-year-old girl experiences her first period. Immediately, her relatives make preparations for a disturbing religious ceremony that will usher her into womanhood.

The ritual which Maya endures is forced on thousands of girls to this day.

Introspective tale

"Failan" by Song Hye Sung. In this introspective tale, Korean star Choi Min-Shik plays a third-rate gangster whose glory days are far behind him. Freed from jail, he goes back to his hometown to live a simple life, but gets involved in a brutal crime committed by his former boss.

Then he receives a letter from a Chinese immigrant girl that changes his life. The letter offers spiritual and emotional meaning otherwise absent from the ex-convict's life.

Passengers

"Soul's Protest" by Choon Song Kim. During World War II, thousands of Koreans were forcibly drafted to work in Japan. This film is about the passengers of the first ship of Koreans returning to their homeland.

The passengers' dramatic stories are interwoven together. The trip begins as an occasion for happy reunions, but turns to tragedy as the Japanese authorities reveal their true plan for the ship.

Misfits

"Waterboys" by Shinobu Yaguchi. Five adorable and well-meaning misfits in a Japanese all-boys high school try to organize a synchronized swimming team after they get smitten with their female coach.

Detective

"The Last Witness" by Bae Chang-Ho. Based on a Korean novel, this film follows a detective as he investigates the murder of an old man whose body is found on the bank of a river. The clues he finds lead him to the diary of a nun.

The diary reveals the shocking truth about a prisoner-of-war camp during the Korean War, and the nun's role in helping the prisoners escape. Thus, this movie integrates the style of the mystery film genre with the exploration of political history.



"QUITTING," a realistic film on drug addiction.



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Lara Fabregas, one year later

By Bibsy M. Carballo

THE WATERS of Lake Taal were starting to ripple, an indication of a wind soon to come. It would be perfect sailing weather. The morning sun was shining brightly and the sky was blue. A couple was lost in a game of scrabble. Only the chirping of birds would occasionally break the silence of the surroundings that Sunday at the Taal Lake Yacht Club in Talisay, Batangas.

Driveway

A car roared swiftly down the driveway. Out came Lara Fabregas with two young boys. One was her stepbrother, she said. The other, her husband Raymond Bagatsing's son from a previous relationship. Soon after, husband would arrive straight from taping "Kung Mawawala Ka" somewhere in Batangas. He would go straight to a secluded spot, spread his malong, and meditate.

We soon found out that this was a very special day for the family: Raymond and Lara were celebrating their first wedding anniversary sailing at Lake Taal, and it was typical that they would do so away from the madding crowd, with the people they loved.

Whirlwind courtship

A year ago, after a whirlwind courtship of two weeks, Raymond and Lara stunned the show

biz world by getting married in Indian rites at Sonya's Garden in Tagaytay. Towards the end of the year, Lara suffered an ectopic pregnancy that confined her to the house for more than a month. She then spent Christmas and the holidays in Australia with Raymond, and by that time, the fickle public had forgotten she existed.

As expected, rumors of separation hounded the couple, as if that was the only interesting news that could be written about them. Especially since Lara has not done a play since her marriage, while previously she was constantly in the limelight as a theater mainstay. Both, however, have learned to live with the idiosyncrasies of the business. But how was Lara really, we wondered, after a year that has gone so quickly?

What have the biggest changes been in your lifestyle since your marriage?

Lara: Phew! So many! The biggest is that I am now a vegetarian. No meat is allowed in the house. We don't even keep alcoholic drinks anymore. Most of my activities are now centered around my home. I still haven't perfected the homemaker thing, but I'm trying. I used to underestimate housewives and never appreciated a well-run home. Now, I'm in awe of these super-women who manage to take care of a husband and children, and

never, ever run out of toilet paper!

Do you miss your previous free-spirited existence?

Every now and then. But those were very selfish days. Everything was centered around Me, Me, Me. The ego kind of misses all that attention sometimes, but that's all there is to it. I think those days were also empty and destructive. My focus was always on work and partying. I think that's pretty sad. My achievements were measured very materialistically.

More meaning

Now, there's more meaning to my life. My achievements are measured by how I make my husband and stepson happy. What does it matter if my career is doing well when my marriage is falling apart? My priorities are so clear to me now. It's not all about Me anymore, it's about the people I love.

Is it true that you have totally submerged yourself in Raymond's lifestyle and have lost your individuality?

Well, I don't hang around and booze anymore, and I don't talk endlessly about how terrible the world is anymore either. If that's what my individuality was about then, I'm glad it's gone. I was a hypocrite. I used to have so many ideas and I wanted to do so many things, but it was all talk. I had so many wise words to share with people but I was a mess!

Difference

People sometimes think personality is about your hairstyle or the way you hold your cigarette. That's nonsense. The difference with me now is that I don't surround myself with so many frills anymore. I'm also not as *mayabang*. I've learned to be more humble because I've realized that I really don't know as much as I thought I did. I'm steadier, though.

When people see someone walking and they keep falling or tripping or skipping, they think, "How interesting." When people see someone walking a pretty steady path, they yawn and think, "How boring!"

After a whirlwind courtship, would you say now on hindsight that you were prepared for the married life?

No—but how can you be prepared for something you've never done before? People give all sorts of advice on how you should be before you get married, and they are right to a certain extent, but experience is everything and no matter how much you prepare for marriage I believe it will always surprise you.

Practical factors

But we should have gotten to know each other better, that's true. When you're married *kasi*, so many practical factors come into play. Your conversations become

very everyday—have you paid this bill yet?

I guess this is how couples fall apart, because they stop talking about their feelings and the things that they used to talk about when they were dating. Raymond and I have had a pretty tough year learning to live with each other, and now we've decided to go out on dates and get to know each other better as people, and not just as husband and wife.

Do you think it would have been wiser to live-in first?

If I had lived-in with Raymond, we would probably not have gotten married. I used to think that living in was such a commitment, but it's not. Unless you're married, I don't think you're committed.

I didn't want to live-in because I didn't want to play house. I'd already done that. I wanted something more meaningful. If a guy just wanted to play, I wasn't interested. It was like I reached the point where I was tired of the



FABREGAS. Experience is everything.

games that boys and girls played. I wanted someone to look me in the eye, love me deeply and get real with me.

So, whether it was wiser or not to live-in first is not the point at all. I would never have lived-in with him. Our fate was to marry each other. I do not regret a thing. I've grown so much because of this marriage. I wouldn't trade it for the world!

(To be concluded)

Get ready for 'Elvis, The Musical'

LOS ANGELES—Call it "Love Me Tender" or Heartbreak Hotel."

Elvis Presley's ex-wife Priscilla Presley and Los Angeles-based Immortal Entertainment Group have unveiled plans to develop a musical stage show based on her legendary romance with the king of rock 'n' roll.

Upbeat show

Immortal president David Codikow promises a lively and upbeat show like the current production of "Mama Mia," which uses songs from 1970s pop music sensation, Abba.

"This is going to be Priscilla's vision. It's her story. It's the king and the queen. It's the birth of rock and roll," said Codikow.

Codikow said it may take 12 to 14 months to get a show up and running, and his company plans to conduct a nationwide talent search for the lead parts of Elvis and Priscilla.

He said the musical will aim for Broadway, of course, but could easily open in Las Vegas, where Elvis made his mark in his later years.

Later, a spokeswoman for Immortal said it was not clear how much of Elvis' own music would be in the production.

Celebration

"It's a celebration of the music from that period. It may include



PRESLEY. Legendary romance.

some Elvis music, it may not," depending on resolution of copyright issues, she said.

Elvis and Priscilla met when she was just 14 years old and the daughter of a military man stationed in Germany at the same time as the 24-year-old Elvis.

Priscilla eventually moved into Elvis' home, Graceland, in Memphis, Tenn. where she lived and went to high school, graduating in 1963. The two were married in 1967, when she was 21 years old,

in Las Vegas at a time when the "Rat Pack" led by Frank Sinatra ruled the gambling town.

Nine months after their marriage, Elvis and Priscilla had a baby girl, Lisa Marie. But theirs was a stormy relationship at times filled with infidelities and his drug abuse. They divorced in 1973.

Priscilla eventually forged her own career as an actress, appearing in such shows as 1980s primetime TV soap, "Dallas." *Reuters*

Beauty contests aren't only for single and svelte women

By Jocelyn Valle

Venue

CONTRARY to most Filipinos' belief, ours is not the only beauty-contest crazy country in the world. In a telecast of Ms International (with Alma Concepcion as our representative) a few years ago, there was a feature on the host country's (Japan) fixation on beauty pageants, revealing that there are numerous beauty competitions in the Land of the Morning Sun, including one called Miss Cherry Blossom.

Titleholder

And we now know why Ms. Venezuela never fails to stand out in the Ms Universe tilt every year, either as titleholder or one of the finalists. In that Latin American country, aspiring beauty queens attend a school to help them achieve their goals.

Beauty contests have also ceased to be the domain of single and svelte women. Moppets, teenage girls, married women, mature ladies, men, boys and gays have found venues to showcase their own physical attributes, talents, intelligence and grace under pressure.

Ditto for obese women. Since last year, the Kababaihan Kakai-ba ng Mandaluyong (KKM) has organized the Bilbiling Mandaluyong pageant that "wishes to show that women who weigh more than usual can exude womanliness and pleasing personality, provide a venue for them to show off their talents, and provide residents with wholesome entertainment."

The noontime program, "Eat Bulaga," has featured a similar contest, but Bilbiling Mandaluyong is supposed to be the first full-fledged pageant to cater to plump women. KKM is said to have copyrighted the format of its project to discourage other groups from staging similar pageants.

The women's organization chaired by Menchie Abalos also made sure that Bilbiling Mandaluyong's coronation night last July 17 at the city's gymnasium was expertly presented, just like the major pageants we watch on TV.

For starters, there was a big screen onstage that magnified the images of the candidates as they paraded in sexy and elegant

outfits, performed, and tried to appear cool and smart during the Q & A segment. This way, the SRO crowd was able to get a good look at the proceedings.

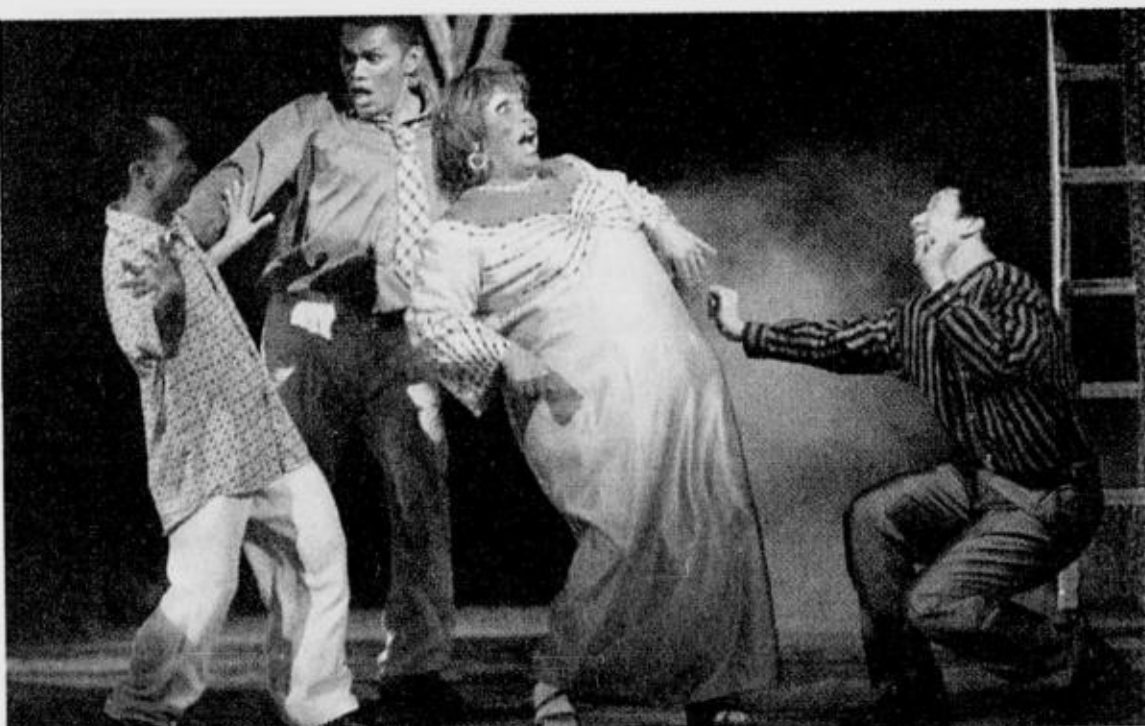
Talent competition

The monitor likewise showed the candidates' pre-pageant activities, like the talent competition and their visits to the project's corporate sponsors.

Bilbiling Mandaluyong also has its very own theme song, written by The Company's Reuben Laurente and lyricist Markel Luna.

But unlike the usual Ms Philippines wannabes, the Bilbiling Mandaluyong's hopefuls were more candid and less self-conscious. After all, for once, beauty contestants were being judged not by 36-24-36 statistics, but by their real bodies, made livelier by their charm, intelligence and natural beauty.

At the end of the program, Mary Juana Paula B. Guiang emerged as Bilbiling Mandaluyong 2002, and chosen as runners-up were Beverly D. Torres, Annabel Zamora Magsipoc, Catherine Solis and Ma. Eden R. Cado. The winner looked every inch a beauty queen!



UNWINDING at the gay bar.

ROMY HOMILADA

Happy and unapologetically gay

From page D5

heater battens. It looks like a vision scene as the divas emerge to answer his prayers. Cooper reprises his classic, Diana Ross' "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." Ignacio makes fun of this timeworn number by referring to Diana as "lola."

Idiosyncrasies

As Ignacio talks about the idiosyncrasies of gays, "Swan Lake, Act 2" unfolds. In Manila where this ballet is shown almost every year and on a predictably mediocre level, Nierras dares to be

different by parodying the famous lake scene. The swans, of course, are men with shaved armpits and Adam's apples in their throats.

Unlike in the Petipa-Ivanov version, where swans are frightened birds under the spell of Von Rothbart, here they are vengeful and ostracize the Prince for his animal rights violation of accidentally shooting a cygnet. Odette, played by Nierras in a butterball tutu, scares Von Rothbart with his bark.

Towards the end of the show, the impersonators remove their

makeup, wigs and women's apparel. Clean-faced and clad in white, they appear as their true selves, dancing to the befitting tune of "I Am What I Am." This attempt to unmask the ensemble makes Ignacio more prominent as he appears as a Marilyn Monroe wannabe. The company dances with exuberance to reveal the celebration of being themselves—happy and unapologetically gay.

("Illusione...Encore" runs through today and tomorrow at Star Theater. It will be shown in Pampanga on Sept. 6 and 7.)

Diana Zubiri goes bold again ...

From page D7

remembers. The next day, she was asked to sign a contract with Seiko. "One week lang yung process! Napakabilis! Tapos after a week, nag-start kami ng shooting." She could hardly believe it herself.

Queasy

Diana says she felt very queasy about what she was about to enter. "May takot din ako kasi maghuhubad ako e. Tsaka medyo chubby pa ako noon." She says that for "Bakar", she sports a much slimmer body. She was forced to diet and work out to shape her body into top form.

She shares, "Tuwing magpi-pictorial kami ni Boss Robbie, lagi niya akong pinapagalitan, 'Iyang tiyan mo, ang laki na naman!'

As expected, her mother was against her becoming a bold actress. Diana reassured her, "Stepping stone lang naman ito, e." At first, she imposed limitations on what she would do onscreen. "Tapos sige, payag na siya."

Excitement

She is thrilled that she is on her way to fulfilling her dream of becoming a star. She enjoys it when she is recognized in public places, and is secretly frustrated when she is not. During the showing of "Itlog," she was given lots of movie passes, so she took her friends to SM Fairview to watch her movie. She laughs that at first the person at the door of the moviehouse did not want to let her enter because she looked younger than 18. "Pinakita ko iyung ID ko tapos nabigla sila.

"Siya pala si ano...."

She says that most of the recognition she gets is positive. Everyday, as she waits for a taxi to take her where she has to go, people on the street call her name: "Uy, si Diana Zubiri!" Other people, she relates, approach her, "Di ko naman sila kilala, (pero sinasabihan ako) 'Pahingi naman ng passes ng movie mo.'"

She also says that many children recognize her and even show her her picture in the papers. "Ate Diana, ikaw ito di ba? Tapos dine-deny ko sa kanila. 'Kamukha ko lang iyan, kakambal ko,' sabi ko."

Of course, she also encounters offensive characters. What does she do? "Di ko pinapansin. Pag pinansin ko, wala rin mangyayari!"

Help! I'm lost in a mall!

From page D7

I decided it would be foolhardy to go any further. I turned around and headed back to ... where??? I had forgotten how I got there! I went back to the department store that was thankfully nearby. All I had to do was look for my sales clerk landmark. But on what floor?

Two floors down later, I still couldn't find anything familiar. By this time, panic was slowly creeping in. I must find the exit! I swallowed my pride and ap-

proached a saleslady. She turned out to be very helpful. She asked, which exit did I have in mind? I looked at her stupidly. She explained that there were several exits leading to different streets.

Dumb look

Which street did I come in from? I gave her that dumb look again because I had no clue, so she just showed me the nearest exit. And naturally, it turned out to be the wrong one. For 30 minutes, I went from exit to exit, sometimes going twice to the same place.

Just when I was about ready to give up, I saw an exit that somehow looked familiar. As I got nearer, my heart was pounding with anticipation. I almost cried with joy when I saw my driver right outside the door. I had found the golden gate. I was saved!

Someone told me there is a group somewhere in Quezon City that can help people like me—sort of like Alcoholics Anonymous. He even gave me a directional map. I haven't gone. I'm afraid I'll get lost!

Diana Zubiri goes bold again in 'Bakat'

By Edmund L. Sicam

"BAKAT" is only Diana Zubiri's second film, and yet she says that she is now used to show biz and the whole bold bandwagon. (The movie got Xed twice by the MTRCB but finally got approved after producer Robbie Tan presented a new version of the movie.) But this was not always so. Diana revealed that her friends were surprised that she decided to become a bold actress. "Nahitiya ako sa kanila, kasi pa-demure ako before, tapos makikita nila ako (sa sine) di ba?" She says that she just tells her friends, "Trabaho lang iyan!"

Auditions

Diana has long dreamed of becoming a star. Even in her pre-teen years, she and her friends would join auditions and even try out as extras in films. "Nagpupunta kami sa ABS-CBN, nag-e-extra kami sa mga movies." She also revealed that when she was 12, she auditioned for ABS-CBN's Star Circle.

So when she was approached by someone from Seiko when she was in a mall one day with her friends, it was a dream come

true. "Actually, dalawa kami noong kinukuha ng friend ko. Medyo mas malaki siya sa akin, tala-gang sexy type. Siya iyang unang in-approach, pangalawa lang ako," she reveals. After two weeks, her friend decided not to audition but Diana took the chance and she gave Seiko a call. She was told to meet Seiko boss Robbie Tan.

This was the time that Assunta de Rossi was starting her bold career and Boss Robbie asked Diana if she could do what Assunta and Rica Peralejo do in their movies. "Siguro naman po kaya ko!" she declared. After two days, she was asked to go to Seiko. "Tinignan niya ang katawan ko, pinag-swimsuit niya ako kung puode nga. Tapos ayun, finally, nandoon na rin yung director ng 'Itlog' at mga consultant, nagustuhan naman nila ako," she says.

Nervous

She admits that she was very nervous about that meeting. "Magtu-two-piece kasi ako. First time kong gagawin iyon e. Tiningnan kung may korte iyang katawan ko, kung may laban ba, kung may dapat pong ayusin," she

DIANA/D6



ZUBIRI. Auditioned for ABS-CBN's Star Circle at age 12.

Help! I'm lost in a mall!

By Noel Trinidad

LET me start by confessing that I have absolutely no sense of direction. Oh, I do know where my left is as opposed to my right. But that's about the extent of my skill when it comes to finding my way around.

Detailed map

That's why, when I go on location to tape a show or shoot a movie, I always insist on a detailed map when they bring me my call slip. If possible, the sketch should start from the gate of my condo in Pasig, even if the location is in Bulacan! That's no guarantee that I wouldn't get lost anyway, but at least there's a fighting chance that I wouldn't end up in Batangas.

But even the most detailed map is only helpful to me going one way. Going back is an entirely different matter! I look at the map, turn it this way and that, and I still wouldn't be able to trace my way back home. Somehow, everything would look so different and new to me, even if it just meant turning left this time instead of right, because I am now going the opposite direction.

Subdivisions

Subdivisions are killers for me. It's not too bad if there is still daylight since you can always ask people for directions. (Although asking for directions is a last resort because, after all, guys are supposed to know, right?)

But when you finish taping at three in the morning, for example, you won't find too many people walking the streets to guide you to the exit. I have experienced; not once but countless times, driving around subdivisions for more than 30 minutes trying to find my way out.

Sometimes, when I finally decide that I had better just go back to the taping site and wait for the others to finish so I can follow them out, convoy-style, I discover to my horror that I can't even find the house where I was taping just minutes ago! Believe me, it can

move you to tears. On the other hand, maybe it's not too improbable to get lost in a subdivision. After all, you have all those streets and avenues to contend with.

Sense of direction

Or maybe, it's just me. Because I do know people who have a sense of direction so keen that they can find their way out of an Abu Sayaff hideout. My wife, for example. It never ceases to amaze me that she can always find her way out when we visit a house for the first time inside a village, even if it required numerous twists and turns to get there. To make it even more amazing to me, she can come back the next day and do it all over again.

But her specialty are malls. She seems to know every nook and cranny of those giant mazes of goodies and stuff. (She can also sniff out bargains—but that's another story.)

Little child

That's why I never dare go to a mall without her. To begin with, shopping is not one of my passions, so I really don't enjoy malls. But on the rare occasions when I find myself accompanying my wife, I turn into a little child who can get lost if left alone.

Since I don't care to follow her everywhere she goes, we have devised a system whereby, after determining where we would meet at a definite place and time, we go off on our own.

(Actually, she would go off and I would stay pretty much near our designated meeting place. Inevitably, that would be a bookstore where I could at least kill time browsing over books.)

That's pretty much my mall experience.—Until the day I had to go to a mall alone.

My wife was abroad and there was something I needed to buy, so I decided to try it on my own. How difficult could it be? After all, I had been to this mall with my wife several times before. All I had to do was learn from my previous experiences, retrace our

footsteps and memorize landmarks and before one could shout "Megamall," it would be over and done with.

Entrance

I started out confidently enough. I told my driver to bring me to the entrance of a particular department store the way I remembered my wife would start out. I knew there were escalators there that would bring me to the inner part of the mall.

As I stepped on the up escalator, I was feeling good about myself. I even had the presence of mind to use a salesclerk demonstrating a product as my landmark to make sure that I could go back the same way.

Then I realized that I didn't know what floor I was supposed to go. I decided to look for a

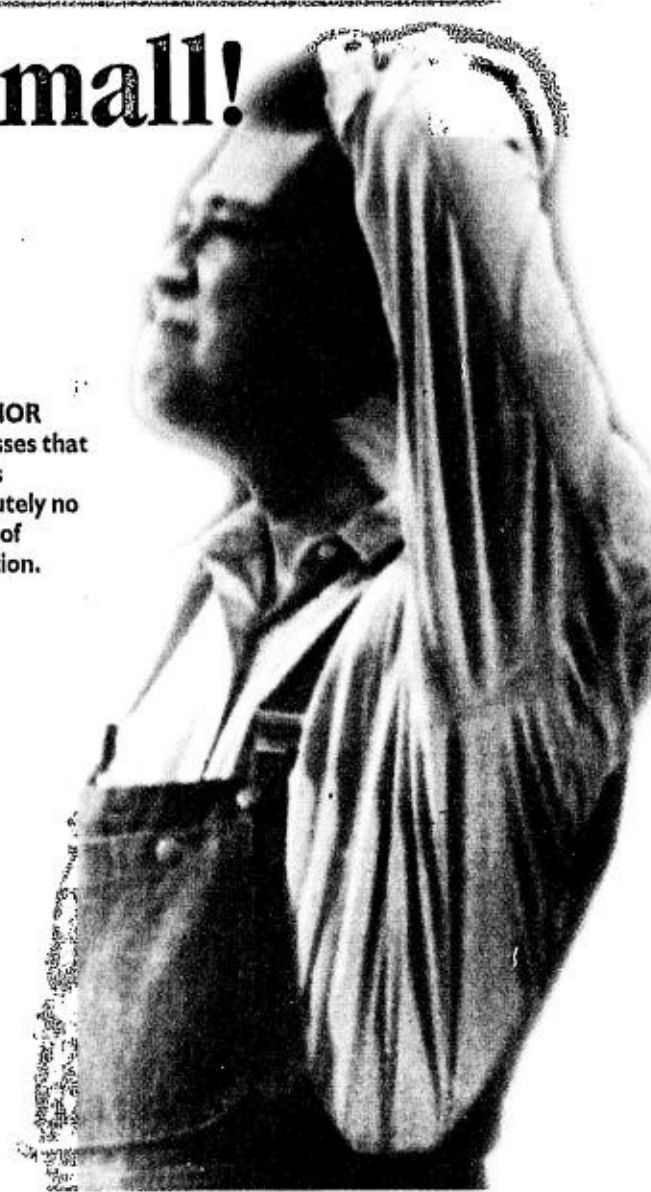
map, which meant exiting the department store. Bad mistake—on two counts. First of all, I never could read those giant maps which confidently tell you "You are here."

Somehow, looking at this one-dimensional map disorients me totally. I never know exactly where "here" is. Secondly, in my concern to look for a map, I forgot if I went up one floor or two. So now I wasn't even sure if I could go back to my original entrance point.

Sigh of relief

It was with a great sigh of relief that I spotted a store security guard. I approached him and asked for directions. Just my luck. He said he couldn't help me because he was new.

HELP/D6



THE AUTHOR confesses that he has absolutely no sense of direction.

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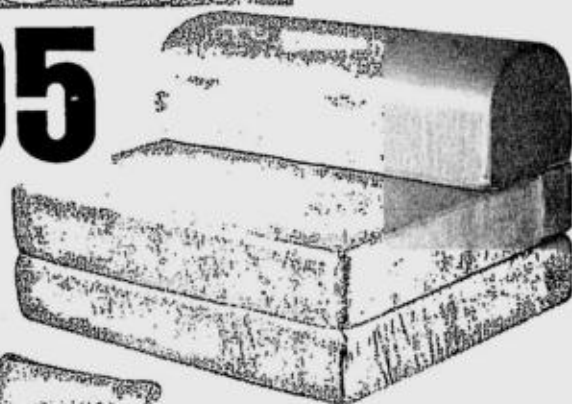
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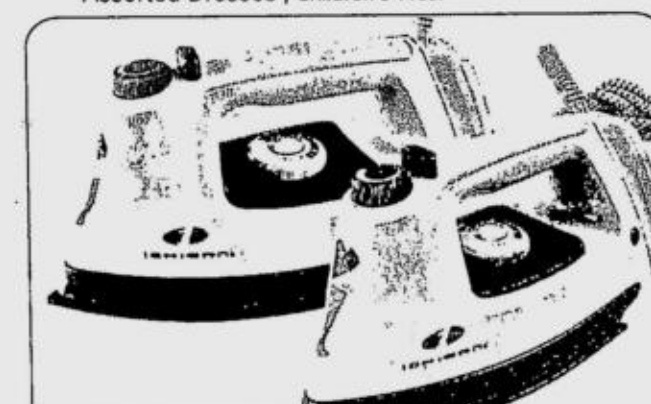
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EASTWOOD. Still a killer's worst nightmare.

SATURDAY Special

Clint Eastwood scores with 'Blood Work'

By Ben Nuckols

NEW YORK—Clint Eastwood is getting older, and he knows it. He just doesn't understand why it should make any difference.

In "Blood Work," Eastwood's 23rd film as director and 44th as star, he plays a heart-transplant recipient. But any hope that the 72-year-old movie god might explore the realities of aging and illness in an honest, moving way are quickly dashed.

Grueling regimen

For Eastwood's Terry McCabe, a retired FBI profiler, the grueling regimen necessary to keep

his body from rejecting the new organ is only a minor annoyance in the quest to solve a murder. Sure, he has to nap regularly and take 34 pills with unknown side effects every day, but by the end of "Blood Work" such details don't matter. He's still a killer's worst nightmare.

Eastwood's refusal to adjust his star persona is both a curse and a blessing to "Blood Work." In someone else's hands, the movie could have been more cerebral, more critical of the hero, dwelling longer on his physical ordeal and on the folly of him running around with a gun or jumping out of the way

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Top stars come on strong in three new films

By Nestor U. Torre

ONLY two months from now, James Bond "addicts" will get their fix when the 20th 007 adventure hits local screens. The new film, "Die Another Day," is Pierce Brosnan's fourth outing as "Bond, James Bond."

Swinging city

This time around, the story begins in the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea, then moves to Hong Kong, Cuba and London. In that swinging city, Bond meets up with two women who will play important roles in his mission to unmask a traitor, and prevent a catastrophic war.

Hot on the trail of the principal villains, Bond travels to Iceland, where he experiences firsthand the awesome power of a new weapon, which ultimately leads to a dramatic confrontation with his main nemesis back in Korea, where it all began.

The two women who get intimately and dangerously involved with Bond are played by Oscar awardee Halle Berry and newcomer Rosamund Pike. The villains are Toby

Stephens, Rick Yune and Will Yun Lee. With Judi Dench as 'M' and John Cleese as 'Q.'

Big action

First-time director Lee Tamahori observes, "The Bond movies used to be about girls and gadgets and a good-looking spy, but it's changed. It's now about girls, gadgets, a good-looking spy-and big action!" Hopefully, that's what "Die Another Day" will deliver in three larger-than-life doses.

If the new Bond film is determinedly big, "Possession" is relentlessly intimate. The Gwyneth Paltrow starrer is the story of two literary scholars (Paltrow and Aaron Eckhart) who try to avoid falling in love but get swept into a passionate romance when they uncover two poets' secret extramarital love affair in the distant past.

Cache of love letters

When the scholars discover a cache of love letters that appear to be from one great poet to the other, they follow a trail of clues across Europe, pretty much the same romantic journey that the passionate lovers went on more than 100 years ago.



CLOCKWISE, from left, "Possession," "Die Another Day" and "The Rookie."

"Possession" is adapted from A.S. Byatt's 1990 novel, which won the United Kingdom's prestigious Booker Prize for Fiction. The film is directed by Neil Leabute, who was drawn to the project because "it's about the discovery of tangible things, but also about oneself, and of how the past can reflect itself upon the present."

Inspiring story

Finally, "The Rookie" has hit it big in the States because of its inspiring story about a has-been baseball player (Dennis Quaid) who, a decade later, coaches a team of losers to victory. Even better, he gets over his old injury and advanced age to throw his first major-league pitch.

The film is based on the actual experiences of Jim Morris, a chemistry teacher and high school baseball coach in Big Lake, Texas. After three years with a professional team, he suffered a severe shoulder injury that forced him to retire.

But his deal with the team of perennial losers he coached worked wonders—not just for them but for him, as well. As the major league's "oldest rookie player in 40 years," his story gives hope to other people who think that their glory days have long passed them by.

Clint Eastwood scores with 'Blood Work'

From page E1

of a speeding car while a delicate new heart beats behind his sewn-up breastplate.

Straight thriller

But it's exactly because Eastwood doesn't probe psychology or physiology that "Blood Work" clicks so well as a straight thriller. He gives Brian Helgeland's workmanlike script—an adaptation of a pulpy page-turner by Michael Connelly—his usual straightforward treatment. Nothing gets in the way of the story, which manages to be satisfying even if you figure out early on who the mysterious bad guy is.

The movie opens pre-transplant, with McCaleb working the scene of a serial killer's latest murder; as usual, the perpetrator has written a message in blood, imploring McCaleb to catch him. The killer gives his pursuer a fighting chance, waiting in the media throng outside the crime scene. McCaleb gives chase, but is felled by a massive coronary.

Two years later, having survived the wait for a transplant, McCaleb is recuperating in peace aboard his houseboat when the movie's central gimmick arrives in the form of Graciella Rivers (Wanda de Jesus), who informs McCaleb that he got her sister's heart after she was shot to death in a convenience store robbery.

With help from his boat-bum neighbor (Jeff Daniels with his "Dumb & Dumber" haircut) and a Los Angeles County detective with whom he has a romantic history (Tina Lifford), McCaleb quickly finds unusual details in the killing and links it to another seemingly random stickup homicide. And his personal connection to the victim takes his work in unexpected directions.

Plausible

Pace has always been an issue for Eastwood as a director; admirers call him "measured" while detractors usually go with something like "somnambulant." Here, he gets it just right, working through the plot with clarity and precision. A less patient director might have rushed over points that Eastwood is careful to explicate. Taken on its own sensationalist terms, the movie is plausible; it holds together.

Eastwood's vanity is the only thing that gives pause. It's not that he tries to hide his age—no hazy lighting or heavy makeup softens his creases. He just won't let the passage of time alter the stolid, invulnerable heroism he's been cultivating since the mid-1960s.

As always, the movie turns on everybody's realization that Eastwood is the smartest, sexiest, toughest guy in the room.

Even McCaleb's cardiologist (Angelica Huston)—who warns him he's risking his life and refuses to continue treating him if he continues the investigation—eventually takes part in it enthusiastically. She clearly has no reason to worry about her patient.

Like the other supporting actors, Huston brings a strong presence to a role that amounts to little more than an extended cameo.

Familiar faces

Eastwood tends to cast familiar faces in roles that play to their strengths; Huston radiates a steely empathy and Daniels loafs around with hand-dog charm.

It's both reassuring and frustrating that Eastwood will always be Eastwood. If he refuses to change, is he relevant anymore? His movies are easy to admire for their professionalism and lack of fuss, but watching him squander the opportunity to do something different is no more fun than watching "The Outlaw Josey Wales" or "Unforgiven" for the 15th time.

He's the same old Clint, now and forever. "Blood Work," a Warner Bros. release, runs 120 minutes. Two and a half stars (out of four).

AP

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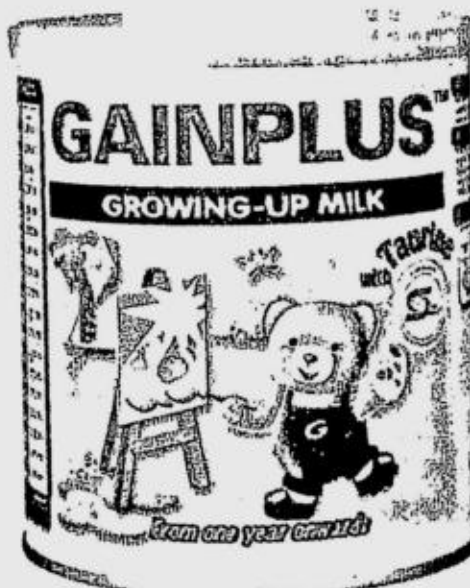


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Lloyd Webber musicals delivered in 60 seconds

By Paul Majendie

EDINBURGH—For fans of Andrew Lloyd Webber, it might be a dream come true—a medley of all his musicals, performed in under 60 seconds.

Short attention span

And for the fan with a short attention span, how about the promise of a ticket refund if 100 musicals are not delivered in 90 minutes?

Gyles Brandreth and his troupe do just that at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with "Zipp," the ultimate bluffers' guide to musicals that takes a whistlestop tour through excerpts from the best and worst shows of the 20th century.

"It is a race against the clock to achieve 100 musicals in 90 minutes and explore the DNA of musicals," the novelist, broadcaster, journalist and former Conservative member of parliament told Reuters in an interview.

"We guarantee to give the audience their money back if we don't touch base with the 100 shows," said Brandreth. It cost them dear in one provincial try-out before Edinburgh when the cast only managed to perform 98 musicals and had to offer a mass refund.

Brandreth, a smooth-talking salesman for the show, said: "If you love musicals, you will have them all there. If you hate musicals, the joy of this is you get them all over in one evening."

Biggest applause

The show, staged in the theater where the Reduced Shakespeare Company first rattled through the bard's works in record times, wins its biggest applause for cantering through Lloyd Webber's oeuvre in under a minute.

"When I announce to the audience that we are going to do that, there is often a smattering of applause. But the truth is that he can laugh all the way to the bank because he is the most successful creator of musicals in the history of the world," Brandreth said.



WEBBER. "Most successful creator of musicals in the history of the world."

Radio drama ...

From page E5

lema namin.

Ed: Masaya ako pag maganda ang feed-back. And when you hear your name in the end credits, it gives me a high na hindi nababayaran.

How would you describe your life as radio drama talents?

Jing: Fulfilling yet exhausting!

James: Masayang mahirap.

Rose V: Gustung-gusto ko talaga itong trabahong ito.

Ed: Ito ang destiny ko! Kasalanan sa Diyos yung binigyan ka ng talent na di mo gagamitin, di ba?

'Tadpole' is a pleasant surprise

By Christy Lemire

NEW YORK—This time each year, the most anticipated movies have multimillion-dollar budgets, big-name stars and high-tech visual effects.

That's what makes "Tadpole" such a pleasant surprise—it's funny and sharp, sweet and poignant.

And it's delightfully low budget—director Gary Winick shot it in 14 days on hand-held digital video for a couple hundred thousand dollars.

Real find

Newcomer Aaron Stanford is absolutely charming and a real find as Oscar Grubman, a 15-year-old boarding school student returning home to Manhattan's posh Upper East Side for Thanksgiving.

Oscar is fluent in French and reads Voltaire and is thoroughly unimpressed with girls his age. The one woman he relates to, Eve (Sigourney Weaver), is in her 40s—and she happens to be his stepmother. Undaunted, he plans to pour out his love for her while visiting her and his Columbia University professor father, Stanley (John Ritter), during the holiday.

Despite his maturity, Oscar's essentially just a kid with a crush; his puppy-dog brown eyes, and the camera, adoringly follow Eve's every move—the way she takes off her scarf, the way she opens a bottle of wine. AP

Asked to pick his top show, Brandreth said: "My favorite is probably 'My Fair Lady' as my singing has been described as an interesting combination of Rex Harrison and Kermit the Frog." At the bottom end of the scale, he said: "We have a touching love song from a musical called 'Sideshow' which is sung by Siamese twins. That is pretty gross." Amid the many speedy costume changes, the 53-year-old Brandreth gets to wear the most startling drag outfit, which he believes could be the solution for the opposition Conservative Party after their last two election drubbings.

"It may be that fishnet tights, purple suspenders and miniature musicals are what the Conservative Party needs now." Reuters

Anna Fegi in 'Voices'

POWERFUL singer Anna Fegi gets her biggest concert break in "Voices, The Perfect Acoustics Concert Series," Sept. 13-14.

Repertoire

The concert features Anna in a vocally-challenging performance with a repertoire of choice light jazz classics, pop, Broadway tunes and standards.

Accompanying Anna at the grand piano is music wizard Toti Fuentes, the Hiraya Men's Chorus in a capella renditions, and the Legato Strings in other numbers.

Of late, Anna's bookings have been geared toward light jazz classics, the latest of which is the three-night concert tribute to music ge-

niuses Levi Celerio, Lucio San Pedro and Atang dela Rama at the CCP.

"Voices" is Anna's biggest solo concert to date. The Entertainment Agenda production marks the return of Philamlife as a venue to reckon with.

Sponsors

"Voices, The Perfect Acoustics Concert Series" is sponsored by Zong Fine Chinese Restaurant with Club Panoly Resorts, Jun Encarnacion Salon for Men, and Women; Imatch Corporation, and MBS Lines, Inc.

The show is for the benefit of Philamlife Foundation's Aid for Basilan Children Fund Drive and Bukas Sarili Foundation. Call Ticketworld at 891-5610.

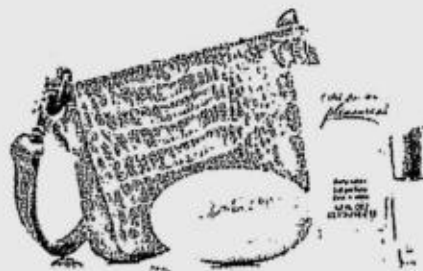


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BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Debbie Gibson, Richard Gere, James Coburn, Marcia Clark
Happy Birthday: This is a year for love and romance. If you are already in a relationship, put some spark back into your union; if you are single, prepare to meet your match. This is a year to reflect the past, take control and forge into the future with optimism. Nothing is out of your reach, so don't look back. Your numbers are 2, 5, 16, 22, 36.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): New friends or a love interest will play an important role in your decision-making. Plan an adventure or outing today that will allow you to get together with others and show your competitive skills.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be a little emotional today, but it's time you let others know exactly how you feel. If you clear the air once and for all you can move forward with force, confidence and courage.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will be able to make headway if you are prepared to talk about your beliefs and concerns. You can make a difference to those less fortunate by sharing your solutions to their problems.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can make money if you jump at the opportunities that arise today. Don't let past memories hold you back. Get in touch with people from your past that can offer you interesting information.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Hiding things from others will only lead to additional worry. Get things out in the open and resolve them. Make changes around your house. New surroundings will make you feel better.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Spend time doing things you enjoy and don't hesitate to pamper. If you put yourself first for a change, you will feel more like tackling some of the issues that have been plaguing you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your mind shouldn't be on serious matters or taking care of others. Travel and communications will bring the highest level of satisfaction. Be sure to refer to your past accomplishments when promoting a new idea.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Moneymaking ventures look interesting today. Do your research quickly and make your move. Unusual circumstances or changes at home may leave you feeling vulnerable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Love and romance are prominent today. If you are already in a relationship, do something together to form a closer bond. If you are single, get out and do things you enjoy and you will meet someone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't restrict yourself today. You must take better care of yourself. Get the rest you need, eat properly and get additional exercise.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Children may play a major role in your life today. Your creative ideas should be put into play. Don't be afraid to show your work to someone who may be able to help you.

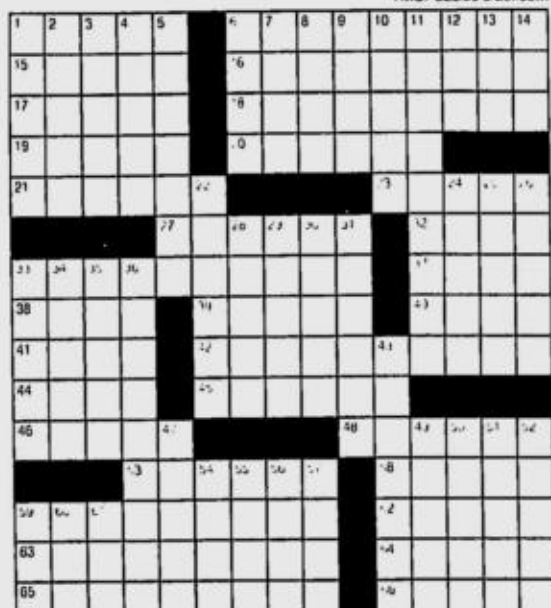
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Problems will crop up today if you aren't emotionally stable. If you find yourself getting upset easily and venting too much, do something by yourself that is creative or soothing.

Birthday Baby: You will be the fabric that holds your family together. You will be bright and creative with a strong intuition that will guide you and your loved ones.

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- ACROSS**
1 Broadway success
6 Belittle
15 French city known for textiles
16 Kissed
17 Choice of conjunctions
18 Liconce sticks
19 Peachy
20 One Finger Lake
21 Talk of the town
23 Beige shades
27 Fondle
32 Fuhark letter
33 Buries the hatchet
37 At some prior time
38 Zenith
39 Edge of a stage
40 Auctioneer's last word
41 Setup
42 Animation tycoon
44 Fork part
45 Method
46 Garbles
48 Rodeo ropes
53 Innate ability
58 Hobo
59 Recuperation facilities
62 Caribbean island
63 Acting as chairperson
64 Sot
65 Audience
66 Water pitchers



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

8/31/02

Friday's Puzzle Solved



- 9 Unadulterated
10 Roosevelt Longworth
11 Encountered
12 Lunched
13 Retrieve
14 Meese and Wynn
22 Papayas
24 Talk and talk and talk
25 Napoleon Solo's org.
26 Shabby
28 Discharge a debt
29 Holliman and Scruggs
30 George C. or Zachary
31 Dispatcher
33 Dillon and McCoy
34 March follower
35 Reeves of 'My Own Private Idaho'
36 Skill in a particular area
43 Copy
47 Glossy fabric
49 Directional indicator
50 Brownish-gray
51 Brownish-yellow
52 Trains for a bout
54 Alan or Cheryl
55 View from Cleveland
56 Five after four
57 Some putouts
59 Hot tub
60 Drummer
61 Bottom-line figure

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



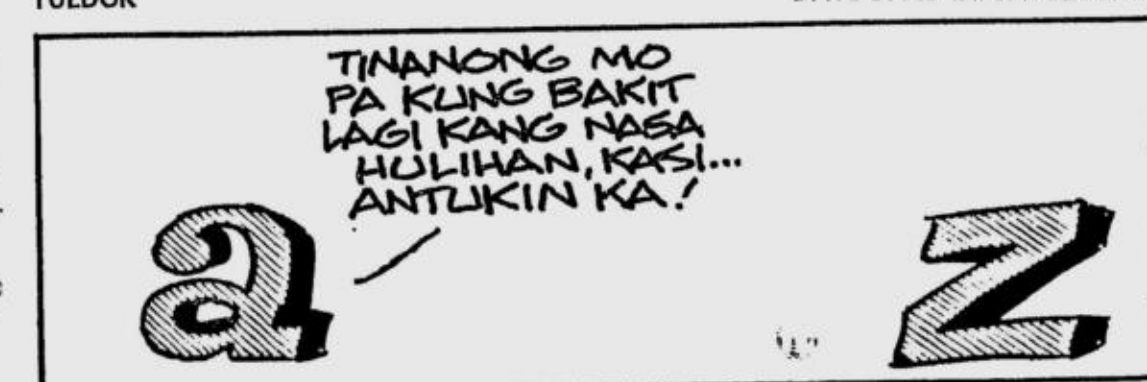
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



Radio drama talents profess their undying love for voice acting

By Ronald G. Mangubat

The voice is a social as well as an individual phenomenon.—Sapir, 1927

THEIR FAMOUS voices have tickled our imagination. In the magical world of radio soaps, listeners have vicariously cried, cursed, laughed, feared and even fallen in love with the sheer power of their voices.

Believable

So believable do they sound that their respective dramatic radio shows continue to shine and be adored by the masses.

Meet seven of these famous radio drama talents: Penelope "Jing" Manipol-Lanzona, Eduardo "Ed" Belo, Jaime "Jimmy" Manato, Lina Legaspi, Priscila "Rose" Nalundasan, James Cuenco, and Rosula "Rose" Victorio. All of them are freelance radio drama talents who have portrayed almost every conceivable role in radio soaps such as "Buhay Maralita," "Pira-Pirasong Pangarap," "May Ningning ang Buhay," and "Liwanag sa Landas ng Buhay."

Four of them provide the Tagalog voices of famous characters in GMA-7's morning telenovela, "Betty La Fea," while another actor dubs for "Monica Brava."

In this interview, they discuss the joys and pains of being radio drama talents, how they hone their craft, and their unforgettable experiences as voice actors and actresses:

How did you become radio talents?

Jing: I was an engineering student who secretly shifted to MassCom. I used to listen to the late Helen Vela on radio in Romblon and I think that's where I got my inspiration to work in radio.

Play

At the university, when I won as best actress in a play, a director at dwXI took me in as talent. *Tapos nu'n, tuloy-tuloy na!*

Jimmy: Nag-audition ako sa dwXI when they conducted a radio drama workshop. It was Jing who took me in.

Ed: I used to be a mechanic and we had this labor case. *Habang hinihintay ko 'yung results nung kaso, nag-audition ako sa dzRH.*

Lina: Sinamahan ko lang ang kapatid kong mag-audition. *Tapos sabi sa akin sa studio, mag-audition na rin daw ako para hindi masayang ang oras ko.*

Rose N: I used to hang around dzEM. Pa-observe. When I heard about auditions, I went alone. *Sa dzXL, ang dami-dami naming nag-audition, 11 lang kaming nakuha.*

James: Sa FEU noon, pa-DJ-DJ ako. *Tapos sapilitang pinag-apply ako ng tatay ko kay Jing (Laughs).*

Rose V: Pa-extra-extra naman ako noon. And then Jing tried me out in the drama "Cecilia."

But I'm sure you are fond of listening to the radio...

All: (Shouts) Yes!

Ed: Ako, crush ko na noon ang boses ni Julie Fe Navarro!

Jimmy: Panahon pa ni Simatar, nakikinig na kami!

All of you can do double, triple or even quadruple voices. How do you do that?

Motivated

Lina: Pinag-aaralan talaga namin. We are coached and motivated by fellow voice actors. *Ako, tine-tape ko ang boses ko. Kunyari boses batang lalaki. Tapos, pag mataas pa ang boses, binababaan ko. Ganoon.*

Jing: Either you have it or you don't. *Pag kailangan ng role, kusang lumalabas yung boses. Ikaw rin mismo, magtataka ka!*

Ed: I was not yet in radio before but I already loved to mimic voices. I'd mimic my father, my uncle. *Sa office nun, ginagaya ko ang mga managers.*

How do you take care of your voices?

James: (Jokes and laughs) *Sina-shampoo! Sino-zonrox!*

Lina: Our voices are our investments so we go to the doctor when we have throat problems, coughs or colds.

Jing: We try to shun sweets, iced water, chocolate, peanuts. *Lalu na pag malapit na ang recording.*

What are your common problems as radio drama talents?

Ed: *Pag selosa ang asawa, kasi we work during odd hours. (Laughs)*

Jimmy: When we're not paid. *Wala, pina-pa-sa-Diyos na lang namin.*

Jing: We don't have security of tenure. Our talent fees are not standardized. We have no benefits like SSS. Anytime, *pwede kaming matugil!*

Unprofessional talents

And there are some unprofessional talents, too. They come late or unprepared for the recording. *Pag may tumawag na mas malaki ang talent fee, ibibitin ka pa!*

But I'm sure there are also joys in your job.

All: (Laughs) *Oo naman!*

Rose N: *Laging may kainan!*

Lina: Since we're all friends, we always look forward to each recording session. *Masaya talaga.*

Any unforgettable experience?

Jing: We had a listener, jeepney driver siya, *gusto ng magpakamatay sa dami ng problema. Tapos, when he listened to one of our dramas, sumulat sa amin, he was enlightened daw. Nag-donate pa kamo ng P50. He really touched us deeply.*

And then there was one time na we went to the province as cast of the drama "Cecilia." *Diyos ko, sinalubong kami ng banda! And the old women wore their traditional clothes, hinahawak talaga kami and they thought I*

was the real "Cecilia" on radiol

Lina: One time, out of boredom, *naisip ko lang na lokohin yung kaibigan ko. I called on the phone and used my batang lalaking boses and she really believed it. (Laughs)*

How would you assess the state of local radio soaps?

Jing: *Kumokonti na. Nada-divert na sa dubbing para sa telenovela. But I tell you, the best dubbers come from radio. Mas may damdamin kasi.*

Not serious

Lina: *Totoo yan. Maraming dubbers, magaling lang sa pag-sync. But when you listen, parang animated. Sa state of radio soaps naman, some radio stations parang nilalaro na lang nila ang drama. They're not serious at all.*

Ed: As long as there are poor people in our country, radio dramas will not die. *Ito kasi*

ang pinapakinggan sa bahay ng mga helpers, mga tao sa pabrika, manggagawa, magsasaka. Since some of us also write scripts, feeling namin, may responsibility talaga kami sa pag-shape ng values ng mga listeners. We make it a point to inject that.

Are there peak and lean months in your job?

Ed: *Sa experience ko, wala. Although I remember, when the "Mari Mar" fever started, sa studio na kami natutulog.*

What do you like about voice acting?

Rose N: *Aba, komo't radyo 'yan, pwede kaming maging sexy! (Laughs)*

Therapy

James: Since *magulo ang buhay ko, nagiging therapy 'to.*

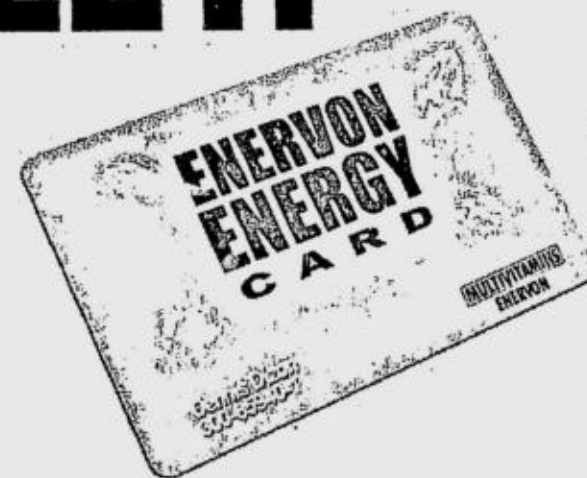
Lina: That's true. When we're acting in front of the microphone, *nawawala ang prob-*

RADIO/E3



FROM left: Jimmy Manato, Ed Belo, Lina Legaspi, James Cuenco, Jing Lanzona, Erica Cardeño (child voice talent), Rose Victorio and Rose Nalundasan.

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TURDAYSpecial

Uncovering Matt Damon's identity

By Edmund L. Sicam

AFTER Matt Damon and friend Ben Affleck won acclaim for "Good Will Hunting," Matt has become Hollywood's fair-haired boy, appearing in such critical and box-office hits as "Saving Private Ryan" and "The Talented Mr. Ripley." Director Steven Spielberg calls him "the superstar of the millennium," who "is going to play a really important part in Hollywood's future."

Adulation
Despite all this adulation, the young actor remains unaffected by his status as a "golden boy." His feet remain firmly planted on the ground. This we found out and when we got invited by the local UIP office to cover Matt's new film "The Bourne Identity" in Taipei two weeks ago. Also covering the event was GMA's Miriam Quiambao.

We got a sample of Matt's popularity in this UNCOVERING /F2

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SWITCHING CHANNELS

This beauty queen is a go-getter

By Edmund L. Sicam

WHEN we first met beauty queen Miriam Quiambao, she impressed us with her classical beauty and smart answers to our questions. We understood why she almost won the Miss Universe contest.

She said she wanted to be a broadcast journalist but we wondered whether someone as demure as she was could do the job. Many beauty titlists end up as co-stars of Fernando Poe Jr. or as TV hosts.

Miriam did become a TV host on "Unang Hirit" and "Extra, Extra" and did a short stint on Bong Revilla's sitcom "Idol Ko Si Kap," but she walked the extra mile and actually covered events and did field interviews. Most important, she was not afraid to get down and dirty by participating in the activities they were featuring.

We were witness to how Miriam worked on the job when both of us covered "The Bourne Identity" in Taipei. At the NAA departure lounge, fellow passengers fussed over her, asked for autographs and posed with her for photos. Miriam gladly obliged. When we arrived at the Chiang Kai Shek International Airport and lined up for Immigration, several Filipino overseas workers recognized her and Miriam again gamely posed for photographs and signed autographs.

When we finally joined the other journalists for the different activities connected with the "The Bourne Identity," a different Miriam emerged. She was no longer the celebrity hounded by adoring fans but a reporter covering an event.

This time, however, she had no camera crew with her. She brought her own videocam and jostled with the other cameramen for a good look at Matt Damon. She told us that the one-on-one with the celebrity only lasted seven minutes, so she wanted to shoot additional footage that could be used for her shows.

During the movie premiere, Miriam found it hard getting a good posi-



QUIAMBAO (left) with Matt Damon in Taipei.

ED SICAM

tion because the much bigger cameras were set up along the red carpet and she only had her small Sony Handycam. She climbed over the railings and was able to get a vantage view of the actor. Inside the theater, she asked a young moviegoer if she could sit on the arm of his chair so she could get a better shot of Matt onstage.

The next day, we were among the last persons to arrive at the press conference venue, so we had to sit near the back, not a very strategic position. Several minutes later, we saw Miriam in another seat, just a few meters away from the presidential table. Despite these physical maneuverings, she managed to retain her glamorous beauty-queen look, with not a hair out of place.

Sometimes people take advantage of this, thinking she is all looks with nothing between her ears. She told us that when she interviewed Vin Diesel of "Triple X" and asked to pose with him, he took her arm and was about to lead her to sit on his lap. Miriam felt this was unprofessional and politely refused, saying, "I don't think my boyfriend will like that." We all know, of course, that she recently broke off with Hans Montenegro but Diesel didn't know that and had to grin and bear it.

When it was time for our round-table interview with Matt, Miriam of-

fered to join us so she could take my photo with the actor. Junket organizers are usually very strict and only allow those who are supposed to be in the room to be there. Miriam managed to convince them to let her in. In fact, she even joined us at the table and asked questions of her own.

Then she asked us to join her for her one-on-one on-cam interview with Matt because she wanted us to shoot him demonstrating the martial arts moves he did in the movie. Again, she was able to talk the organizers into letting me in.

Unfortunately, when we were already inside, we were not allowed to film the interview. She was, however, able to get Matt to demonstrate his moves even while seated, with the use of a mineral water bottle.

If you want to see Miriam's interview with Matt Damon, tune in to "S-Files" tomorrow at 4 p.m. and to "Extra Extra" on Tuesday, Sept. 3.

MTV specials

MTV and PLDT are presenting the boy band Blue on Sept. 2 at the NBC Tent at the Fort with guests Kyla and other artists. The four-member London-based band composed of Duncan James, Antony Costa, Simon Webbe, minus Lee Ryan (who is recuperating from a go-kart accident) is coming to the Philippines for a three-day visit.

To win free tickets to the show, dial 1-908-MYMUSIC.

Searching for a national archive

By Clodualdo del Mundo Jr.

(The author delivered this paper during the Congress of the Federation of International Film Archives in Seoul, Korea last April 2002)

IMAGINE this scenario: you are a film scholar doing a study on Philippine films. You want to do research on the classics of this Southeast Asian cinema, specifically on the works of renowned Filipino filmmakers like Gerardo de Leon, Lamberto Avellana, Manuel Conde, Lino Brocka, and Mike de Leon.

List of films

You have made a list of films you want to see: Gerardo de Leon's "Ang Daigdig ng mga Api" (The World of the Oppressed, 1965), Lamberto Avellana's "Prinsipe Amante" (Prince Amante, 1950), Manuel Conde's "Genghis Khan" (1950), Lino Brocka's "Maynila... Sa mga Kuko ng Liwanag" (Manila... In the Claws of Light, 1975), and Mike de Leon's "Kisapmata" (1981). Where do you go to watch and study these films?

Gerardo de Leon's "Ang Daigdig ng mga Api" is considered one of the best, if not the best, of this national artist's works. It was produced in 1965, financed by the political machinery of then candidate for president Diosdado Macapagal. The subject of the film is land reform, the centerpiece of Macapagal's platform. De Leon was commissioned to do a feature film on the subject; the result was not an embarrassingly direct propaganda but a magnificent film.

Colleagues

As a film scholar, naturally you would want to see the film for yourself and make your own judgment. You connect with colleagues in the Philippines and you get the same answer: no copy of the film exists; if there is one, nobody knows where it is kept, or who may be holding on to it. You have to be satisfied with stills of the film and secondary materials published in newspapers and magazines. Consider your primary material lost.

Lamberto Avellana, another national artist, made "Prinsipe Amante" for LBN, one of the post-war Big Three studios. "Prinsipe Amante," a popular radio program in the late '40s, was equally a box-office success, starring the movie idol of the period, Rogelio de la Rosa. Avellana's adaptation was a landmark in Filipino filmmaking; it was shot in color that displayed the resplendent costumes.

Your colleagues lead you to LVN, which has long been the country's leading color film laboratory and post-production facility. You meet the person-in-charge of the studio archive. With bated breath, you await the result of the search. Then, you are told that the film no longer exists; the negatives are gone and no positive print remains.

"But the archive has a few stills of the film, would you want to see them?" the person-in-charge volunteers in an attempt to assuage the dismay on your face. You look at the contents of the box labelled "Prinsipe Amante" and you marvel at the costumes, even though



"GENGHIS Khan" was Manuel Conde's door opener to film festivals in the 1950s. Acclaimed director Fritz Lang is shown, left, with Filipina actress Erlinda Cortes and Conde.

Video copy

In the absence of a print, you have to satisfy yourself with a video copy of the film, either from two sources: A broadcast network that owns the television rights to "Kisapma-

SEARCHING/F3

Mojofly loves music, pasta and chicken

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

HEARING the DJ over the radio introduce Mojofly's single, "Minamalas" can be a turn-off. But once you hear the lyrics of the song, you will nod in agreement. There are days when you just regret getting out of bed.

Relationships

Ricci Gurango, bass/song writer, admits that he wrote "Minamalas" when luck eluded him. "Minamalas" was something my friends and I went through. We're not unlucky with money, but we're unlucky with relationships.

"For example, you're stuck with someone but you guys don't even get along. But you don't want to break-up because you don't have someone else. It's unfair, but you just need someone."

Their next song, "Puro Palusot," says that they refuse to give a person the benefit of the doubt after hearing an excuse. As a band, have they come up with creative excuses to get off the hook?

Ricci laughs and nods, "Madalas may nagpapalusot. If a band member fails to memorize a song before we rehearse, he is supposed to be fined. Ha-

lata naman kung hindi nila alam ang kanta. But so far, wala pang nafi-fine sa amin. We're all cooperating. Minor pa lang yung mga kasalanan, kaya minor din ang excuses."

Lyrics

Jun-Jun Regalado, drums, squirms, "Hindi ako 'yon. Yung lyrics ng 'Puro Palusot' iba-iba ang pinanggalingan na sitwasyon. May tungkol sa pag-aaral at kung bakit hindi nagawa ang homework; mayroong lalaking nagpapalusot sa girlfriend niya. Hindi lang siya tungkol sa isang problema."

They get different reactions to "Minamalas." Some believe it expresses Pinoy angst, others say it's mellow with a rock twist. Yes, they enjoy experimenting with their sound and getting amusing comments.

Ricci smiles, "I like Rivermaya! Our vocalists, Katrina (Nadal) and Rico Blanco (Rivermaya's vocalist/ songwriter/guitarists) are cousins. I also love Alanis Morissette. I saw her concert at the Araneta Coliseum. And I love rock music! When I was with Hungry Young Poets, we were playing folk-pop. I have a different band so I wanted a different sound. In this business, you can't do anything twice, because the sound gets old."

"Specially here in the Philippines, every three months, you have to have something new because Filipinos get bored easily. I think comparisons will always be made."

Jun-Jun frowns, "Hindi ko alam kung negative itong comment na ito: May mga nadidingin ako na parang boses bata daw si Katrina."

Funny

Ricci interjects, "Some people say that Katrina reminds them of Sampa-guita. We like picking on Katrina during rehearsals. She's so funny! In between songs, Katrina wants to sit or lie down."

Aside from keeping their music real and honest, Ricci and Jun-Jun believe they should have tasty but convenient meals.

Ricci shares, "I love anything with chicken. Jollibee Chicken Joy and Kenny Rogers' chicken are my favorites! I hate pizza because I worked in a pizza store before."

Jun-Jun prefers Filipino food. "Mahilig ako sa sabaw. Nilagang baka at sinigang na baboy ang favorites ko. Minsan, tinola din. All-in-one kasi, may sabaw, may karne at may gulay pa. Health-conscious ako."

Uncovering Matt Damon's identity

From page F1

part of the world when we attended the movie's premiere at the 800-seat Ambassador Theater, the only cinema in the city that is not in a Cineplex. Like most Hollywood films, the movie had a Chinese title, which roughly translated meant "Identity Authenticated." As soon as the star arrived, accompanied by his girlfriend Odessa Whitmore, his young fans started screaming, "We love you, Matt." (Odessa used to be Ben Affleck's production assistant.)

Then Matt took the obligatory walk down the red carpet where local and regional media were waiting with their cameras to get sound bites from the actor. He was clearly overwhelmed by the reception he got and took his time answering questions.

One piece of trivia we learned was that the actor had checked in at his hotel as Richard Greenleaf, the character he impersonated in "The Talented Mr. Ripley." It reminded us of "Notting Hill" where Julia Roberts, playing a superstar, was registered as Emma Flintstone, the cartoon character.

At the group press conference held the next day, Matt explained why he did an action picture for the first time.

"I'm a big fan of action movies

but I rarely see them done very well. They're often derivative and predictable. I've been ready to do an action movie for the last five years. I just haven't seen a script that was good enough," he said. His search ended with "The Bourne Identity" based on the bestseller of Robert Ludlum, who died shortly after the end of the production.

Amnesiac

In "The Bourne Identity," Matt plays an amnesiac who is rescued at sea with bullets in his back and a Swiss bank account number embedded in his hip. He discovers that he "possesses an array of extraordinary talents in fighting, linguistics and self-defense, that speaks of a dangerous past."

Matt talked about the intense preparation required for his character: "I approached this role pretty much the same way as my other movies where I took as much time as I could to do all the things I thought the character would be able to do." He had learned to play the piano in "Ripley," and ride a horse in "All the Pretty Horses."

For "Bourne Identity" he took martial training for three months under a Filipino who specialized in Kali, "a lethal fighting technique different from anything audiences have ever seen before."



DAMON (right) with the author.

MIRIAM QUIAMBAO

For an earlier movie, "Courage Under Fire," where he played a minor character (he was just starting in show biz), he lost 45 pounds, running 13 miles a day for three months. "I ran six miles in the morning and seven miles at night. I wouldn't waver from my diet. It got so bad that, when my girlfriend kissed me, I'd have to wash my mouth because I could taste the oils on her lips from the food she'd eaten."

Because of the punishing regimen, Matt damaged his body and

the effects lasted for two years. He had under two percent body fat, and his blood sugar was all messed up. Fortunately, he managed to get back in shape again.

Then it was time for the round-table interviews with the print media where we joined entertainment journalists from Taiwan, Thailand and Indonesia. When Matt entered the room, he was dressed casually in an unbuttoned long-sleeved blue shirt over a white T-shirt and dark pants. As soon as he sat down, we dis-

pensed with formalities (we only had 25 minutes to talk to him), said, "Let's cut to the chase," and he smiled because our first question had to do with the car chase in the movie. Q and A:

Car chase

That was quite a car chase in the movie. It reminded us of "Ronin" and "The French Connection." How are you with motor cars in real life?

I'm pretty good. I haven't had an accident so far (knocks on the table). It's interesting you mentioned "Ronin" because it was the same guy (Nick Powell) who designed the car chase in the movie.

Have you ever joined a racing event?

No. I've never run from the police, either. (Laughter) We actually went to a Formula One track and practiced with these guys. At first, I didn't know how much of the driving I had to do. In the end, they did all of it. (Laughter) But at least, I got to go in a Formula One track in a Mini Cooper, and see what it could do. It was really fun.

Is winning the Oscar a big deal?

Yes, it is. I think, certainly for us, it really changed our lives because of the timing in our careers so early on. I remember the exact day. It was

about a year and a half after we won. Ben and I were in a restaurant. And it hit us at the same moment that we had received the Academy Award. We really didn't internalize it for a very long time.

Before that, you had many rejections. How did you deal with being rejected?

I think it helped, since rejections are part of life. The one good thing about being an actor is that you get used to being rejected.

Was there ever a time when you wanted to call it quits?

The one time I ever considered giving up was when I did the movie "Courage Under Fire" and I lost a lot of weight. The studio didn't pay for anybody to advise me how to do it. I was an unknown actor and I did it on my own. I got very, very sick. I was very proud of my work on that movie. I had moved back to Boston and I was on two different kinds of medicine. The movie came out and most of the reviews didn't even mention me.

I remember thinking, "I almost killed myself and they didn't even write my name. The studio didn't even put my name in the press kit." So, I said, if it's at that cost, clearly I'm not gonna get another job because of this movie!

(To be concluded)

Comprehensive directory of television shows

By Noelani Torre

"THE COMPLETE Directory to Prime Time Network TV Shows" by Tim Brooks and Earle Marsh is very comprehensive, each program's entry containing its complete broadcasting history, cast list, and plot summary. They even include juicy and informative behind-the-scenes tidbits about the stars and the show itself.

Success

See the entry on "I Love Lucy," for example: "The success of 'I Love Lucy' is unparalleled in the history of television," the authors write, although CBS had some doubts about the show at first. "CBS was enthusiastic about the concept of the show, but the network nabobs had two major objections—they were positive nobody would believe Desi was her [Lucy's] husband (despite the fact that they were married in real life), and they wanted the show done live from New York, like all of the other early television comedies."

Lucille Ball got her way, though, which resulted in a turning point in television's history, "the shift of television production from New York, where it had all started, to Hollywood, where the film facilities were."

Age of reruns

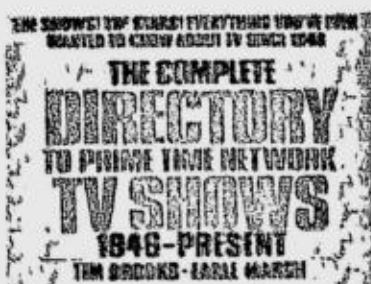
In this age of reruns, this is the book to keep by the TV set, to refresh your memory or to be better informed about lesser-known shows.

For those of us not so well informed about American television earlier than the '80s this is a valuable resource.

We were unaware, for example, that the Val Kilmer starrer, "The Saint" was actually an NBC primetime regular from 1967 to 1969 starring Roger Moore, and that its protagonist "had long been a popular character in fiction, first in the best-selling mystery novels of Leslie Charteris, and later in a series of movies and a radio show in the 1930s and 1940s."

One can pick up a lot of information by leafing through this book, like behind-the-scenes tidbits about Ralph Edwards' long-running testimonial show "This Is Your Life":

"There was always a backup kinescope ready to roll, in case something went wrong when Edwards sprang his little surprise on an unsuspecting guest," the authors write, "but it was never needed. There were occasions,



EACH program entry contains its complete history, cast list and plot summary

though, when plans had to be scrapped because the subject found out in advance what was being prepared.

Celebrities

"According to the 'This Is Your Life' staff, Joe Louis and Ann Sheridan were two celebrities whose biographies were cancelled for this reason. And there was one person who was definitely off-limits—Ralph Edwards himself. He had told his staff, and he meant it, that he would fire all of them if they ever tried to pull the switch and surprise him with his 'life.'"

The book also has six appendices containing prime time network season schedules from 1946 onwards, a list of Emmy Award winners, top-rated programs by season, longest-running series, series airing on prime time on more than one network, and hit songs from TV.

"The Tonight Show" and "Walt Disney" (Disneyland, Walt Disney Presents, Walt Disney's Wonderful World of Color, The Wonderful World of Disney) are two of the longest-running series.

Among the theme song hits from television are the "Mission: Impossible" theme; Perry Como's rendering of "No Other Love," which was based on a main theme from "Victory at Sea"; and "The Ballad of Davy Crockett" from "Disneyland."

The book's authors are TV scholars with a genuine passion for the medium. Brooks is the director of Television Network Research for NBC, and Marsh is the manager of Special Projects for the CBS national television research department.

Searching for a...

From page F2

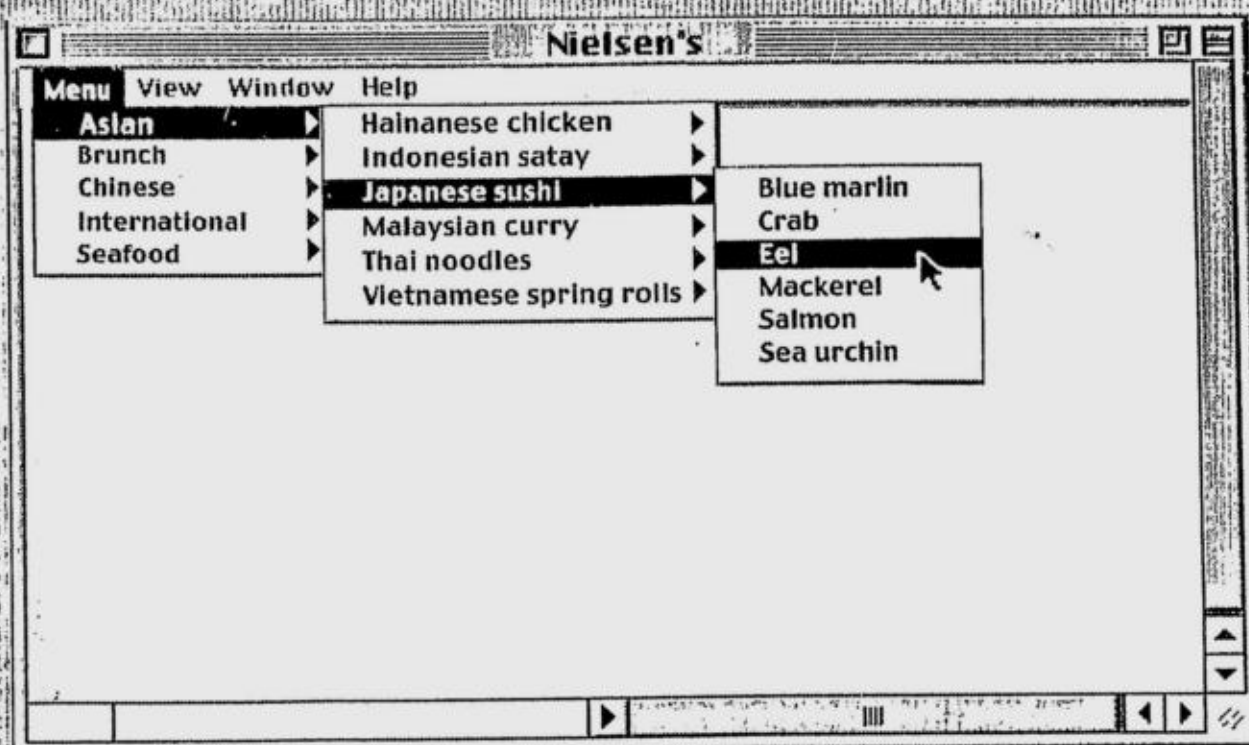
ta," which was acquired from an individual who claimed to have the rights to the film; or, you approach the filmmaker himself, Mike de Leon, who has a personal video copy of the film.

The preceding situations are not at all hypothetical; the research difficulties that a researcher in Philippine Cinema will have to face are real. There are so many other films that are either irretrievably lost or totally inaccessible—or, if they are accessible at all, they are not necessarily available on film.

Mere storage rooms

The Philippines, which can boast of early filmmaking at the turn of the century and feature filmmaking in 1918, does not have a national audio-visual archive. What the country has are several little "archives." However, to call them archives may not be accurate. Except for one or two places which apply international archiving standards, these so-called "archives" are really mere storage rooms.

(To be concluded)



Megalite TREAT

Nielsen's

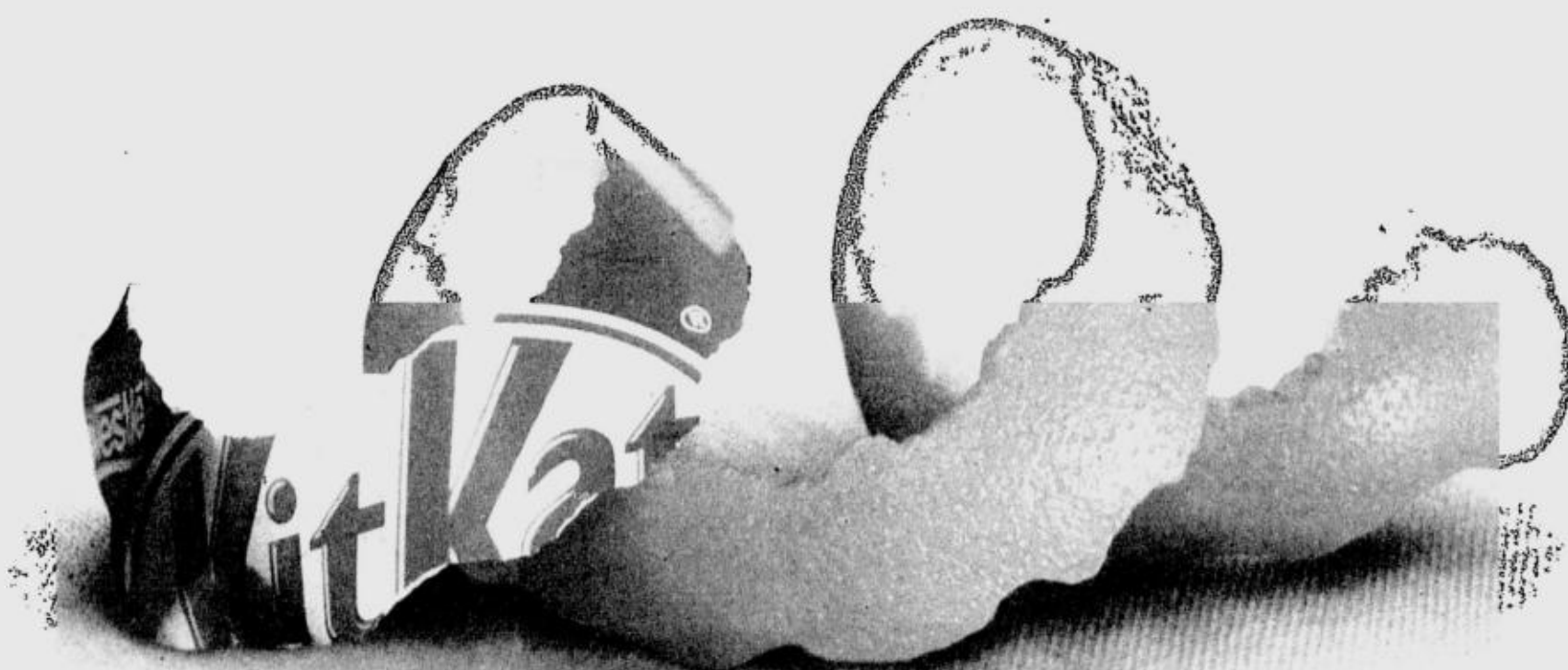
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So, "Gamitan" ends on a tentative and unsatisfying note. We see where the production is trying to go, and we appreciate its occasional bursts of youthful cheekiness and verve, but its young leads' shallow performances prove to be its undoing.

Mayer has found a balance between these two extremes that make his work more real. His efforts to offer music lovers something original will certainly be appreciated by people who are adventurous enough to try something new.

[illegible]

SATURDAYSpecial

Fans still adore Marilyn Monroe, four decades after her death

LOS ANGELES—Fans and old friends had warm words Monday for Marilyn Monroe, still a complex and powerful image four decades after her death. Her roles onscreen and off meant so much to so many.

Amazing talent
"This was an amazing talent. She brought herself up from a basically an orphan childhood and made herself a movie star by her own talent," said Greg Schreiner, president of "Marilyn Remembered," a group that holds a memorial service on the anniversary of her death each year.

Early on the morning of Aug. 5, 1962, after a housekeeper found her naked body stretched across her bed next to a phone left off the hook and an empty bottle of barbiturates, a coroner declared Norma Jean Baker—better known as Marilyn Monroe—dead at the age of 36, calling it a suicide.

For the past 20 years Schreiner and other fans have held a ceremony in the cemetery where Monroe is laid to rest, but this year's 40th anniversary memorial brought out an unprecedented crowd from around this country, and from Spain, France, Germany, Britain, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands and Australia.

"This service has been the largest ever," said Jill Adams, president of "For Ever Marilyn." "This is the very same chapel where her funeral was held" in 1962, recalled an emotional Leslie Kasperowicz, president of another fan club, "Immortal Marilyn."

Pop icon
Some 400 admirers of the pop icon came from around the world to pay their respects, cramming the tiny chapel at Pierce Brothers Westwood Village Memorial Park to remember the redheaded girl-next-door turned blonde bombshell who struggled to prove herself as an actress, not just an image.

An innocent who could wield sensuality like a weapon; a small-town girl on a first-name basis with the US president; the American beauty who once wed US baseball legend Joe DiMaggio, making it a matched pair of cultural symbols; Monroe was, like so many protagonists of the American dream, humble, hard-working and self-invented.

And she was forever chasing

after her own invention, trying to keep some Norma Jean in Marilyn Monroe; fighting the vulnerability and isolation her own image helped fuel; trying to prove herself good enough, and more than all that flash.

Next to an arrangement of 40 white roses at the base of her crypt stood Robert Slatzer, a personal friend of the screen legend and author of the book "The Life and Curious Death of Marilyn Monroe."

Motley collection
He was joined by a motley collection of well-wishers including platinum-locked Marilyn impersonators, fans decked out in Marilyn T-shirts and tattoos, and admirers who gently placed photos, personal messages and press clippings beside her resting place.

Around the world, many fans were paying tribute in their own ways.

In Germany, television networks were airing Monroe films, and the last photos of the actress, snapped by Bert Stern in 1962, were widely republished.

In Djurgården, Stockholm, a June 15-Aug. 18 exposition dubbed "My Marilyn," is looking back at images of the actress from Andy Warhol's pop-take on the diva to Richard Hamilton collages pieced together with Stern negatives.

In London, Michelle Morgan, founder of the "Marilyn Lives Society" said, "Most of my members have gone out to LA for the anniversary and are going to the many events over there. Over here, we have been commemorating it all year."

Memorial
At the memorial, Adams stressed: "I think her fans represented her home. She belonged to the public, and I think the public responds to that."

"Because her image is so in the public's eye as a material thing, I think there is a point where the new generations come along and see Marilyn as this material object, and we try to humanize her," she added.

Said Schreiner: "I think there have been people who tried to promote her as sort of a dumb sex symbol. We don't see her that way at all."

"We see her as a very sensitive, intelligent, talented lady."

"And I think that is the real image of Marilyn." AFP

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'Probe's' Robert Alejandro fuses art with TV reporting

By Ronald G. Mangubat

THE "PROBE Team's" Robert Alejandro never imagined himself to be a TV reporter. In fact, his five-page curriculum vitae is devoid of any broadcasting background and only lists his professional affiliations with the art world.

Loner

A former art director at McCann-Erickson Philippines, Robert's work revolves around designing book covers, doing graphics, art design and renovation for theme parks, malls, bars and restaurants. Describing himself as a shy loner, this UP fine arts graduate would rather tinker with his computer and be absorbed in his universe of colors, paint brushes, pencils and sketch pads rather than deliver his spiels on camera.

But when he found himself doing just that three years ago, he took it as a divine cue and taught himself to learn and enjoy the art of TV reporting.

For Robert, everything happened by accident. A few years ago, Probe's "Five and Up" children's program featured him as the artist and son of the owners of Papemelroti chain of stores who designed children's books. A few weeks after that, he was invited to be a guest host in another program, "Gameplan," and later, was offered to be an on-camera reporter for "The Probe Team."

Hesitant

"I was very hesitant to do it at first because I was not interested in television, my Tagalog was very poor, and I'm shy," Robert reminisces.

When shooting time came, and Robert found himself in the company of Che-che Lazaro, Karen Davila and Love Afover, he virtu-



ALEJANDRO and samples of his sketches, many of which were made while on location for "The Probe Team."

ally froze. "Sabi ko sa sarili ko, ano'ng ginagawa ko rito? During the take, Karen would encourage and instruct me and say, deliver your lines with conviction, Robert, and I'd go 'Oh, my God, ano ba 'tong napasukan ko?'"

And true enough, when he first watched himself on TV, he felt like throwing up. "Walang halong biro, pero nag-turn talaga ang tiyan ko," he laughingly recalls.

This "baptism of fire" only lasted for awhile, and Robert soon found himself enjoying his work. He likes the travels that go with his job, and has become more comfortable appearing before the TV cameras. His innate curiosity has also resulted in a number of good interviews, eliciting praises not just from the show's producers, but from the viewing public as well.

It was however his drawings that drew favorable feedback from "Probe's" viewers. During location shoots, Robert brings his pen and sketch pad, sits in one corner and

draws a striking scene.

"At first, we didn't think of including my drawings in the show but sometimes, the camera would capture me sketching and the audience got curious. So after getting some positive feedback, the producers decided to show it. And I told them, since I'm a novice reporter, pag-drawing lang talaga ang alam kong gawin ng magaling."

TV shoots

Robert's artworks are expressed in different media. There are pens and pencil sketches, watercolor paintings, and charcoal and crayon drawings that he painstakingly rendered during his memorable TV shoots. Samples of his subjects include child sampaguita vendors (a favorite "Probe" story of his), a lighthouse in Capones Island, Zambales, underwater scuba-diving scenes, a baby ostrich in Cagayan de Oro, portraits of children in Agusan, etc.



Viewers say these artworks added more impact to "Probe's" episodes because Robert's images enhance the tone, hue and drama of the stories.

And with the program's tight editing and panache in storytelling, the fusion of Robert's artwork and his reportage truly becomes a moving audio-visual experience. Currently, these artworks are being exhibited at the Papemelroti Café on Rocas ave., Quezon City and have been generating visitors from various walks of life.

The consummate artist is now part of the local TV world and has found himself already being recognized in public places. "At first, I don't know how to react because I'm really shy, but my parents told me to smile and say hello to the people. Otherwise, I might be branded as *suplado*."

This new celebrity status, however, does not stop the 38-year-old artist from doing the simple things he loves, like taking public



transportation, riding the MRT, going to malls and watching movies. "I love my freedom at *ayoko ng naka-kahon*. I'd rather quit my job than change my current lifestyle," he avers.

Hard work

His stint with "Probe" is hard work, but Robert enjoys every minute of it. He says he has grown a lot and gets a high from their out-of-town shoots.

"I tell you, this thing that Che-che has been doing is just like a ministry. There's no economic value but the things that I learn from the stories that we make and the goodness of the people I meet really touch my soul."

Robert cites a small fishing village in Bataan as an example of a story that moved him: "Pinangalgangan nila talaga yung mga turtle eggs at humanap sila ng other source of income para lang ma-preserve ang buhay ng mga turtle. Mahirap sila but they're doing good work. Ilong mga ganitong kwento yung kailangang isagaw mo talaga sa bayan at sabihing maganda at magaling ang ginagawa nila."

Through his travels, Robert has also proven that the Philippines is one extraordinary beautiful country. "Sobrang ganda ng ating bansa. At mababait ang mga tao, lalo na sa probinsya. Ang nakaka-depress nga lang, mararami ring problema ang bansa natin at wala tay-ong political will," he sighs.

Aside from these discoveries, Robert is also slowly getting interested in the art of video production. He explains: "As an artist who creates and works with visuals, I also got fascinated with post-production work. I'm praying about this and I believe that

since God put me in 'Probe,' I don't think it's just for reporting. Who knows? I might venture into other fields."

Portfolio

For someone whose work portfolio includes the design of Alabang Town Center, Metropolis Star Mall and the Ayala Museum, Robert remains surprisingly simple. He has no vices, doesn't like to go to parties, and refuses to attend art exhibit openings.

"I'm really an introvert who just projects as an extrovert when I'm on cam," he says in jest.

His close friends compare him to a Polyanna who always says good things about people and doesn't engage in malicious talk. When asked if he has an artist's temper and tinge of madness, he jokes, "Hindi pa ba crazy yung wala akong bisyo, di mahaba ang buhok ko at wala akong balbas?"

He advises parents who have children with artistic tendencies to encourage and praise their kids. "Kasi when I was a child, I'd draw on the walls of our house, pero kahit minsan hindi ako pinaglalitan. My notebooks would be filled with my doodles, but I never got reprimanded. So I was encouraged more to express myself through drawing."

Simple things make Robert happy. A smile, a friendly call, and positive words even from strangers make his day. "Minsan, when I get sad over a lot of things, mayroong stranger na bigla na lang lalapit sa akin at sasabihing ang galing-galing mo sa 'Probe.' That brightens my day na. Lalo na pag sinasabihan ako ng ang galing mong mag drawing, ha? Solved na ang araw ko!"

This fusion of art and TV reporting makes Robert Alejandro's life extra-meaningful these days.

Documentarists' complete involvement . . . From page G3

Adoption

"Daughter from Danang" by Gail Dolgin and Vicente Franco. Just like Kim in "Miss Saigon," Mai Thi Kim gave her daughter by an American soldier up for adoption 22 years ago. The girl, Mai Thai Hiep, was adopted by a single woman in the States, and her name was changed to Heidi.

Birth mother

Two decades later, Heidi went back to Vietnam to look for her birth mother.

They did get reunited, and the documentary painstakingly chronicles both the long search and the reunion. But the story has less than a happy ending, as both mother and daughter realize that things have changed too much for them to bridge their now different worlds.

Declining ability

"Demon of the Derby" by Sharon Rutter. This documentary is about a woman who's been Roller Derby's "Meanest Mama on Skates" since 1948.

Now in her 70s, Ann Calvello refuses to give up the limelight. This documentary portrait follows Ann for two years as she grapples with her declining ability to skate.

Mountain of garbage

"God's Children" by Hiroshi Shinomiya. The documentary focuses on Smoky Mountain in Manila, where 3,55 families exist by scavenging through literally a mountain of garbage.

In February 2000, the film crew began living in Payatas, searching for locations. In July, they began filming. One week later, a typhoon struck, collapsing a flank of Smoky Mountain, swallowing up more than 500 houses.

Music department

"Facing the Music" by Robin Anderson and Bob Connolly. The documentarists set up their cameras in the music department of the University of Sydney in Australia, and over nine months captured an engrossing if somewhat depressing drama of good people battling

to do their job in the face of a general indifference to the arts.

Lip service

In the course of those nine months, a dedicated music professor goes from opposing strike action to manning the barricades as things get worse. She finds out that the university hierarchy pays only lip service to the values she thought the place was supposed to be run on.

Insights

Why should documentaries take a lot of time and care to do? because the insights they come up with aren't that easy to arrive at, especially when the issue or syndrome being investigated is a complex one.

Immersion

Often, the "long distance" documentarist's point of view at the start of his immersion is different from his stance at the end of the long process, because subsequent inputs from many sides have clarified the topic in radically new ways.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM AUG. 31 - SEPT. 6

CH	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	5:30 Magandang Gabi Bayan 7:00 Smart Ka Na Ba? 7:30 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Mary d' Potter 9:30 Klammy 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 To Be Announced 9:00 Fox News 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mail 9:30 Saturday Night Money Mover 11:30 Star Trek Voyager	5:30 Dragon Ball Z 6:00 Intestigator 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster 11:00 Master Showman	6:00 Entertainment Tonight 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse Cinema 11:00 Marlin Nievera Onstage Part II	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game2 8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:00 Viva Box Office	5:30 Bewitched 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 Rank Things We Love About Elvis 8:00 ElTrue Hollywood Story Princess Diana 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Celebrity Profile Sylvester Stallone
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	7:00 Fox News 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night	5:30 Partners Mei & Jay 7:00 K! 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Road Trip	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game 2 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva's Hot Hits	6:00 Travel Time 7:00 Exposed 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The Street 10:30 Twilight Zone	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 El Original Special 8:00 Rank 9:00 Revealed W/ Jules Asner 10:00 Movies on E!
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hininlay 7:30 Pangako sa Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correspondents	4:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Bahla 6:30 F 7:00 Mahina Go Go Go 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Fashion TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ready Txi Go 7:00 Ikar Lang Ang Marahalin 7:30 Sana Ay Ikar Na Niga 8:00 Ang Ibigin Ay Ikar 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 GMA's Best 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xira Bahla 6:00 Sin It 6:30 Real TV 7:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 8:00 Jag 9:00 24 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 DAR 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Greatest Fights 11:00 IBC News	6:00 Jenny Jones 7:00 Samurax 7:30 News Central Primetime 8:00 Bully 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Live 7:00 Celebrity Adventures 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 El News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On
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	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hininlay 7:30 Pangako sa Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Isyu 101	4:00 Value Vision 5:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Bahla 6:30 Shualto 7:00 Fancy Lala 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Guinness World Records 9:30 Single 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ready Txi Go 7:00 Ikar Lang Ang Marahalin 7:30 Sana Ay Ikar Na Niga 8:00 Ang Ibigin Ay Ikar 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Daboy on Di Girl 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Debate w/ Mare and Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xira Bahla 6:00 Sin It 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Malcolm In The Middle 8:30 Dharma & Greg 9:00 NYPD Blue 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats On Friday	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 PBA Provincial Game 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire 10:00 Bilyanan Na 11:00 IBC News	6:00 Jenny Jones 7:00 Samurax 7:30 News Central Primetime 8:00 X-Men Evolution 8:30 The Chronicle 9:30 Night Visions 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 El News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
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Documentarists' complete involvement is of the essence

By Nestor U. Torre

THE DOCUMENTARY scene in the Philippines has been compromised of late by the rise of the "quickie" documentarists, who come up with one documentary a month, among other job functions in the country's leading networks.

Inferior work

As a result, they think it's OK to shoot a documentary

for only three or four days, and get surprised when people complain about the thinness and shallowness of their inferior work.

To make both documentarists and viewers realize the amount of thought, time and work required by professional documentary production, here are thumbnail sketches of some celebrated productions that benefited from

their makers' complete involvement:

"The Execution of Wanda Jean" by Liz Garbus. Wanda Jean was sentenced to death in 1989 after she killed her lover. The film finds her 11 years later, her execution date just months away.

With chilling intimacy, the film follows Wanda's final months on Death Row. The filmmakers chronicle Wanda

Jean's final weeks as her legal team exhausts every option to save her life.

By telling one woman's story, the film explores a controversial moral and political dilemma: the death penalty. This documentary is an unflinching investigation on the role that poverty, mental health, race and sexuality play within the criminal justice system.

DOCUMENTARISTS/G2



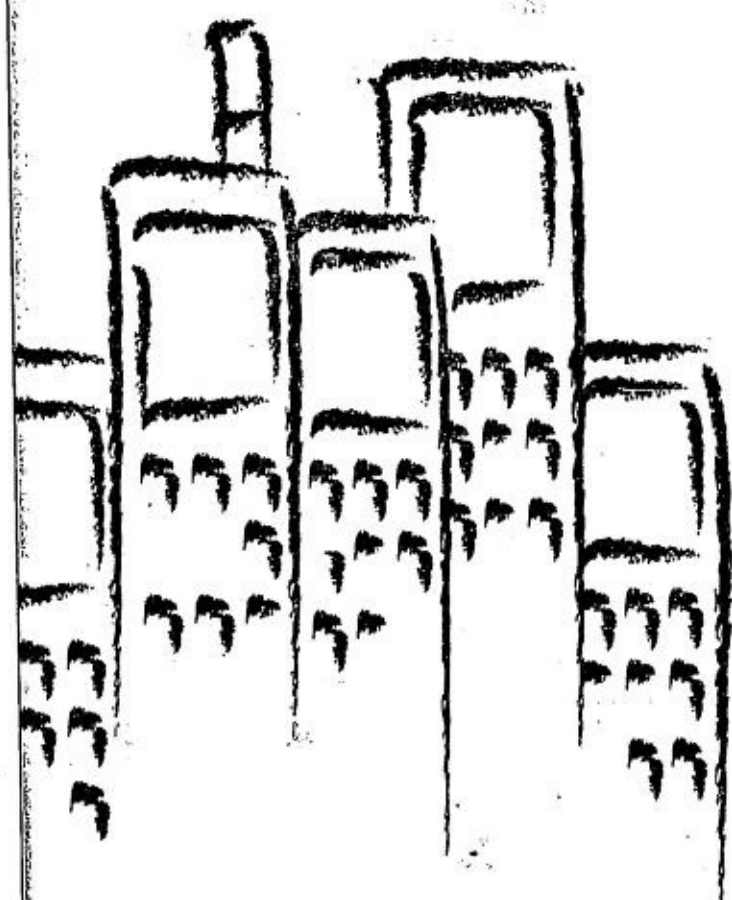
"DAUGHTER FROM DANANG." Less than a happy ending.

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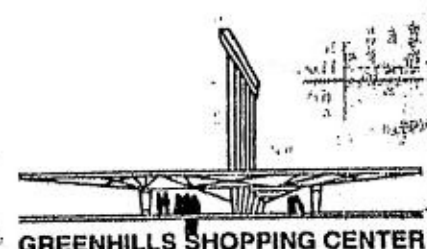


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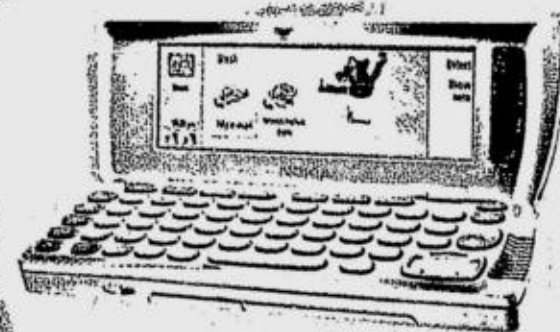
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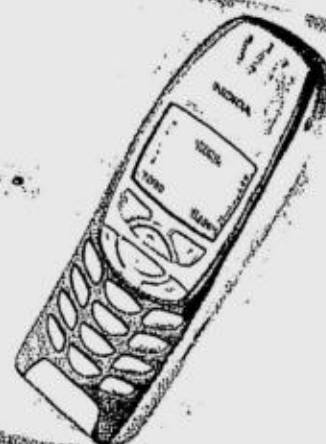
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SATURDAY Special

Daniel Radcliffe, other child stars rush sequels as puberty looms

as quarreling sibling spies in the children's comedy "Spy Kids."

Now they're back in "Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams" and preparing to start a third film for release next July.

That will be the end, according to the stars and director-creator Robert Rodriguez.

"I think if we keep on going, we'll be too old," said Vega, who added that sequel-conscious producers were initially resistant to giving her the part of big-sister superspy Carmen Cortez.

"I was 10 and I think all the other girls auditioning were 8," Vega said. "They didn't want it to turn into 'Spy Teens,' which it's kind of doing, so that's why we just tried to blow one movie out of the way and do the next one and the other one coming up."

Cartoon series

If "Spy Kids" continues past the third film, Rodriguez said, it will be as a cartoon series, not live action.

can't shoot all the films simultaneously, like "The Lord of the Rings," because you need the kids to look a little older each time."

The children are signed through the third installment, "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," but with three of the planned seven books in the series still unpublished, it's unlikely the same cast can be maintained until the final movie adaptation, Columbus added.

He opted out of the third film, saying behind-the-scenes work on the first two "Harry Potter" projects has kept him going practically nonstop for two years.

Pressure

The child stars of both "Harry Potter" and "Spy Kids," however, have up to a half-year off between filming, which gives them time to go to regular school and escape the pressure of Hollywood, said Paul Petersen, president of the child-actor activist group A Minor Consideration.

DANIEL/H2



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Daniel Radcliffe, other child stars . . .

From page H1

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—The makers of the "Spy Kids" and "Harry Potter" movies have found themselves in a race against puberty to put sequels into theaters while their young stars are still baby-faced.

With hundreds of millions of dollars at stake, the hurried pace for those follow-ups is a bid to dodge the kind of downtime that stifled the "Home Alone" series as Macaulay Culkin sprouted into adolescence.

Sibling spies

It was only last summer when Alexa Vega, now almost 14, and Daryl Sabara, 10, first appeared

The yearly chronology of author J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" books demanded back-to-back shooting schedules for the film adaptations, said Chris Columbus, director of last November's "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" and the upcoming "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets."

Both films star the now 13-year-old Daniel Radcliffe as Harry, and Rupert Grint, 13, and Emma Watson, 12, as his pals Ron and Hermione.

"The drawback is you can't stop the aging process, so there's no chance of a big break between films," Columbus said. "And you

"I don't think they're working too much. The work is usually fun . . . They just need to focus on their education and have an exit strategy so that they have other options when they get older," said Petersen, 56, who appeared as Jeff Stone on the 1950s TV series "The Donna Reed Show."

Early child stars like Shirley Temple and Jackie Coogan worked much more grueling schedules. Coogan, who was 6 when he starred with Charlie Chaplin in 1921's "The Kid," appeared in 20 film projects by the time he was 18, and Temple, who started her screen career at 3, did 50 shorts and features by 18.

Many child actors of the past were considered expendable by studios, even if they were the main stars of lucrative serials.

The "Our Gang" series, later known as "The Little Rascals," survived for more than two decades because the original casting process in 1922 emphasized body type over acting prowess.

Younger performers

There was the fat kid, the freckle-faced sidekick, the black boy, and the cherubic little girl among other stereotypical ragamuffins. As actors grew out of the roles, they were replaced by younger performers who fit the type—a process that resulted in more than 220 short films over

22 years.

Contemporary audiences tend to become more attached to particular child celebrities, making the actors harder to replace.

After 1990's "Home Alone," featuring Culkin as an abandoned little boy who foils two downish robbers, broke comedy records with \$286 million at the domestic box office, the boy actor returned two years later in "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York."

That film grossed \$173 million, and the studio considered starting "Home Alone 3" immediately after shooting wrapped on the second one, said Columbus, who also directed the first two

"Home Alone" films.

But the plan was dropped until five years later. By then, Culkin was 16 and too old to reprise the role. Audiences showed little interest in his replacement, 8-year-old unknown Alex D. Linz, and the film collected only \$31 million.

Although Vega and Sabara said they enjoy appearing in the "Spy Kids" movies, they expressed relief that their advancing age has placed a limit on the series.

"I want to be able to move on and be good and be able to do different things," Vega said, a sentiment echoed by Sabara: "I don't want to be known as 'the spy kid' forever." AP

Vicor produces birthday concert for Aiza Seguerra

By Remy M. Umerez

LAST year, Aiza Seguerra celebrated her 18th birthday at Villa Escudero in Laguna and it turned out to be a different kind of debut. There were no guys to hand her 18 roses, no blowing out of 18 candles, no gown, and the First Dance had to go.

Music

There was music from Aiza's musician-friends, who drove all the way from Manila, and lots of food and drinks.

Aiza turns 19 this September and she is celebrating it with a birthday concert which Vicor is producing.

Entitled "A First" it will be held at the Music Museum on Sept. 27 and 28 and it will be a night with plenty of surprises.

The main attraction is the special repertoire Vicor has lined up for Aiza. She will render hits of the '70s and today's pop and alter-

native sensations. She will also do her own interpretation of some OPM classics.

Do you want to know what song first made her cry? What are her favorite children's songs? Who are her musical influences? Aiza will reveal these and more in her concert.

Gown

For the first time, Aiza will wear a gown designed for her by Larry Espinosa, to set the mood for a medley of romantic songs.

Aiza has slimmed down a lot. Even before her major concert was planned, Aiza had become fitness-conscious and she even joins her mother, who exercises every morning at the Quezon City Circle.

Aiza finds the Music Museum the perfect venue for her concert. She is not a screamer and the size of Music Museum is just right for her to communicate with her audience.

The Company joins Aiza in this special musical event.



SEGUERRA. There will be plenty of surprises in her Sept. 27 and 28 shows.

No bad track in 'The Very Best of MTV Unplugged'

By Noelani Torre

"DON'T expect this to blow you away and leave you in awe... it is, after all, unplugged!" So says one of the customer reviews at Amazon.com about the album "The Very Best of MTV Unplugged" (Univisal/Warner), and we heartily disagree.

Sure, we weren't exactly blown away, either, but we found the whole album a thoroughly enjoyable listening experience.

Refreshing compilation

There isn't a bad track to be found in this refreshing compilation, with big-name artists giving us their acoustic takes of their classic hits. Thus we have Eric Clapton with his poignant "Tears In Heaven," Sting with "Walking On The Moon," Paul McCartney, Alanis Morissette, R.E.M., and many more.

We've always found acoustic performances more interesting than studio recordings, devoid as they are of the technical gloss that sometimes makes up for a performer's deficiencies. Well, there's none of that in this collection, neither gloss nor deficiencies, thus enabling us to focus on the songs and their singers.

Another good thing about acoustic performances is that we get to hear songs, in this case familiar songs, rendered differently.

Live performances

Still, there are a great many acoustic albums flooding the market at the moment, so what more does "The Very Best of MTV Unplugged" have to offer? Well, all of the 18 songs collected here are live performances. Also, where else would you find Page & Plant (and through them Led Zeppelin), R.E.M., and Brian Adams all together in one album?

The celebrated show that gave birth to this CD, "MTV Unplugged," has long been a favorite of ours, as well as of many other folks, and it's about time that they gave us something like this.

The album opens with Eric Clapton's moving "Tears In Heaven," rendered superbly by the master, and ends with Sting, another musical institution, and his performance of The Police classic "Walking On The Moon."

In between these two pillars are other equally big names such as Paul McCartney, who gives us another hit, "Every Night," Rod Stewart with "Tonight's The Night (Gonna Be Alright)," and Paul Simon with everybody's old favorite, "Mrs. Robinson."

They all deliver highly satisfying performances, but are eclipsed by younger and/or lesser-known artists.

Songwriting core

There's Page & Plant, for example, the legendary Led Zeppelin's songwriting core, with their really rockin' performance

of "Gallows Pole," a Zeppelin track. Gritty and with a beat that catches hold of you and doesn't let go, it manages to stand out from an already outstanding playlist.

Brian Adams' "Summer of '69" also caught our attention, mainly because this live and unplugged—stripped—version sounds so much better than the heavy-sounding studio-recorded one. "Strong Enough" by Sheryl Crow is also very good, as it really showcases her voice.

Lenny Kravitz's "Are You Gonna Go My Way" is a surreal bluesy version of the original, almost completely reworked so that it seems that the only elements it has in common with the first version are the lyrics. We didn't like this one very much, but, still it was done in the spirit of experimentation, and we have no problem with that.

Noel Gallagher's toned-down performance of the Oasis hit "Don't Look Back In Anger" reveals the clean melodic line of the song. This is less gritty than the usual, perhaps, but it makes us focus on the lyrics, melody, and Gallagher's distinctive singing.

Favorite track

All in all, however, our favorite track would be R.E.M.'s "Losing My Religion." We're biased in its favor, we must admit, because we have long thought it one of the best songs ever, but most would agree that it just sounds terrific—acoustic or not. (Live's cool "Lightning Crashes" would probably come in second.)

This is a great collection, on the whole. We only wish that we could have heard something from Nirvana, because this album leans a bit towards providing background music. Not that that's bad in itself, but this being "The Very Best," well, let's just say that we wouldn't have minded hearing something that wouldn't have made easy listening, but instead would have set our hair on end.

Still, this compilation does grow on you. Though it may not be definitive, it is a fair representation of the last three decades in music. There's something here for everybody, and we hope that this isn't the last we're going to hear from MTV Unplugged.



MORISSETTE. Joins Paul McCartney, Eric Clapton and other big-name artists in this acoustic compilation.

God is all we need

WHO can satisfy me? Who can make me happy? We often look for another person to fill our deep-seated needs. Unfortunately, we end up frustrated and in greater anxiety everytime we have to deal with another individual who cannot understand our true needs and problems.

Relationship

We would like to share with you excerpts from the booklet, "Marriage: Great Expectations." Jagad Guru dwells on expecting somebody to completely satisfy us in a relationship:

"It's not fair for you to expect someone to totally satisfy you. Ultimately you cannot be satisfied by another individual because, in fact, you are wanting the Supreme Person. God is the person you really need. I cannot satisfy your needs because your needs are much bigger than I am. I have to recognize that, and so do you."

"As an individual, I know that I'm not going

LOTUS POND



R. Valencia and S. Bismark

"We're like empty cups looking for other empty cups to try to get filled. There are all these empty cups walking around. And there's this clattering noise. That's really what's going on in the world."

to be able to satisfy someone else if that person takes total shelter of me. I'm not able to satisfy all that person's needs.

Empty cups

"I'm not God. But for some reason, I start looking for people as if they were God. But in fact, they are just like me. They're looking for someone to satisfy them also."

Attractiveness

Jesus Christ preached that the kingdom of God is within. The reason is that the Supreme Person is not to be found by going from one spark of God to a different spark of God. Of course, we're all sparks of God and so we have some attractiveness. Being part and parcel of the All-Attractive Person, we possess to a small degree the quality of being attractive and we may be drawn to relate with others.

"But, ultimately, my need is for the Supreme Person. If I try to satisfy my need for the Supreme Person with another individual spirit soul, something will be missing."

Film viewers' pet peeves in moviehouses

By Noelani Torre

WATCHING a movie on the big screen is a different experience from watching it "in the comfort of your own home." It's more exciting, in a way, more theatrical, and it gives you something else to do in the mall other than window-shop. Despite the existence of video, VCDs, and DVDs, people still love to watch movies in movie theaters.

Still, we are in a dark place, surrounded by strangers, so unsavory things do happen that lessen our enjoyment.

We've all experienced them, surely, the little irritating things that aggravate us no end. So, we asked some avid moviegoers to tell us what their pet peeves are when watching films in theaters. These are the things that annoy them the most:

Standing room

"When it's standing room, tapos may biglang sisingit sa harap mo. Alam naman niyang mas matangkad siya sa 'yo, pero pipilitin niya talaga ang sarili niya—at kung kailan pa maganda ang scene. "Minsan the aircon's too cold and the floor's sticky. Pero pinaka-ayoko talaga ang mga taong hindi marinangong ng moviehouse rules, ethics. Lalo na yung mga non-stop mag-critic, mga über-critics. OK lang sana kung paminsan-minsan, pero hindi."

"Ayoko din pag bigla na lang napuputol o nawawalan ng sound, at sa gitna pa ng magandang scene kung kailan emoter na emoter ka na, di ba?"

"Ayaw na ayaw ko din na tinatapanan yung paa ko. Tapos wala na masyadong nag-u-usher, masyadong madilim. Hassle din yung pag manood kayo ng R-18, tapos tanong nang tanong kung kailan birthday mo, etc., e bini-gay mo na nga ang ID mo at sabi dun fourth year college ka na. Gusto pa talaga nila ng birth certificate?" —Melania Micaela Dunham, Quezon City

Noisy eaters

"One of my pet peeves is noisy eaters. You know, crunch-crunch-crunch! I also don't like people who give blow-by-blow accounts while you're watching the movie."

"I don't like late-comers because they disturb you when you're already settled in, and people who block the view. Sometimes they even squat on their seats! I don't like noisy laughter. They keep going on and on even if it's not funny anymore."

"Cell phones! Cell phones that ring in the middle of the movie, because the owners didn't turn them off! Also, people who keep looking at you and not watching the movie."

"I hate people who play with themselves,



IT'S O.K. to have fun while watching a film, but don't be a moviehouse monster.

and couples PDA-ing all over the place. It's disgusting. It ruins your concentration. Sometimes, I just want to choke the life out of them." —Prince Echevarria, Taytay, Rizal

Loud ring tones

"I-enumerate ko na lang: Basura. Mga naghahalikan sa likod mo. Mga papansin na sumisigaw. Mga nagte-txt na ang lakas-lakas ng ring tones. Mga naghahagigikan at tawa nang tawa, kahit di naman nakakatawa."

"Malagkit na semento. Mga nangangamoy na pagkain. Masyadong malamig na aircon. At mga lalaking nambabastos. Minsan kailangan pa naming lumipat para lang maiwasan sila!" —Jo Me San Pedro, Bulacan

Tall people

"I have two main pet peeves. I hate tall people with big heads wearing hats sitting in front of me. I hate people who sit beside me or behind me who keep talking about the movie as if they've already watched it before."

"And, particularly at SM, it gets very messy when it's the last full show. They don't allow tin cans. I hate that! It's so consumer-discriminating. I also hate guards who look at you in a malicious way." —Kiendra Saldivar, Xavier U., Cagayan de Oro City

Saving seats

"Ayoko usually pag sikisan na, tapos may isang aisle na free at may isang tao na i-save yun para sa mga kasama niya. Tapos kayo, nauna pa dun. Ayoko din yung mga nagku-kuwento pag napanood na nila, tsaka yung mga daan nang daan sa harap mo."

Nakakainis din yung mga killjoy. Yung masyadong conservative, mga 'Ay, ano ba iyan,' etc. Ayoko din sa mga comment nang comment tungkol sa movie habang pinanood niyo." —Raphael Dorilag, Iloilo Food

"I hate it when it's standing room already, and the food of the people at the back keeps falling on you. Shower ka nang di oras! I also hate those who keep stepping on your feet when they're passing by. And sometimes there are those who 'type' on somebody and they keep screaming (Ang guwapo, guwapo niya!)"

"I also hate it kapag bigla kang mahawakan ng somebody tapos puno ng cheese ang kamay nila. I hate people who play with themselves in moviehouses at yung mga naglalampungan. Tsaka sobrang puno ang CR 'pag break, at ang mahal ng food." —Genevieve Carolino, Cebu Friends

"I don't like people who save seats para sa mga friends nila. Ayoko din sa mga nagkukuwento sa harap mo kasi napanood na nila. Ayoko sa mga dinadala ang mga bata nila na basta-basta na lang iyak. Hindi din maganda 'pag natabi ka sa isang barkada, kasi ang iingay nila." —Joan D. Carmona

Are you guilty of any of these irritating acts? Reform instantly, in fairness to your fellow moviegoers. Everybody's entitled to having a good, happy time while watching a movie, right? Don't be a moviehouse monster!



NORA AUNOR SIGNS UP WITH ABS-CBN SUPERSTAR Nora Aunor recently signed an exclusive contract with ABS-CBN for her drama series which will air soon. Present during the signing were (from left) ABS-CBN senior VP Cory Vidanes, chairman and chief executive officer Gabby Lopez, EVP and entertainment group head Charo Santos-Concio, and Ms Aunor's manager Norrie Sayo.

Shyamalan movie draws attention once again to crop circles

By Catherine Lucey

PHILADELPHIA—Charles R. Mallet has spent nights camped out in fields of grain in England, trying to see what makes the big, elaborate patterns known as "crop circles"—which he believes are messages from some unearthly place.

Ominous element

Now, he and others who investigate crop circles worry about "Signs," the latest movie by "The Sixth Sense" creator M. Night Shyamalan, in which crop circles are an ominous element.

"Knowing this guy's movies, it's going to be a little more thoughtful than 'Independence Day,' but it's not going to have much to do with the real crop circles," said Mallet, 32, of Cherhill, in England's Wiltshire County.

Crop circles first drew widespread attention in the 1980s, when they appeared in fields around the world, especially in England. Their allegedly supernatural origins were quickly thrown into

doubt when people began admitting to creating them; in 1991, two men said they made circles in southern England at night using boards.

But true believers, who number in the thousands, say people could not have made most of the circles.

Thriller

"Signs," which opened Friday and stars Mel Gibson as a Pennsylvania farmer who finds the circles on his land, is a thriller. Circle followers, however, say the circles aren't about fear.

Linda Howe, 58, a former documentary filmmaker, has written several books on circles. Asked if one could be used in the film, she said no.

"It would have been a reference book that Mel Gibson would have been going through," she said. "They wanted to put an image there with murder or death or danger, something to do with dark fear. I could not have my book tied in with any wrong information with crop formations."

"Signs" producer Frank Marshall said the circles are merely a hook for Shyamalan to tell a story of a man struggling with his beliefs.

"The movie isn't really about crop circles. It's just one of the stories that exist within the movie," he said.

Geometric

But he added that the crop circles in the movie, filmed in Bucks County, Pa., are "totally based on the research. The cornstalks are not broken, they're bent. They're very geometric. They're very realistic. Our crop circles are as authentic as the ones that are found around the world."

Dutch researcher Eltjo Hasselhoff, 39, said he is happy to see crop circles used as a theme.

"But I do believe there is a mystery about the crop circle phenomenon. The information you find about crop circles is often completely wrong," he said.

"The crop circle phenomenon is felt as a kind and gentle phenomenon." AP



CROP CIRCLES. Emblems from some unearthly place?

'The Sting' in novel form

By Leia Torre

REACTIONS to movie versions of books range from disgust to fulfillment. Some stories change so much that one is hard-put to recognize them. Other film versions are more successful.

Original script

Books based on movies have the same problems, although to a lesser degree. Some have already been printed before the final cut of the movie is shown to the public, and are therefore usually based on the original script. Any revisions to the script that were included in the movie would not appear in the book. But these differences are usually minor.

The book version of "The Sting," written by Robert Weverka, is based on the script for the motion picture of the same title, which was written by David S. Ward. The movie won seven Academy Awards in 1973, including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Screenplay. Directed by George Roy Hill, it starred Paul Newman and Robert Redford.

It's set in the back streets of Chicago in 1936, a time when gangs of mobsters partitioned the city and ruled supreme in their respective territories. Redford plays Johnny Hooker, a small-time con man who unwittingly lifts \$11,000 from an errand boy of mob kingpin Amon Lorrimer, played by Robert Shaw. This results in getting Hooker's friend and mentor, Luther, killed.

Expert

The real action begins when Hooker teams up with Paul Newman's character, Henry Gondorff, who's an expert at the "big con." They plan one such scam, Hooker's first, in order to avenge themselves on Lorrimer. It is essential, however, that their "mark" does not ever realize that he has been conned.

The plot gets sticky when both characters keep secrets from each other, while both the authorities and the mob are hot on their tails. There are a lot of unexpected twists in the story, and the plotline keeps you guessing until the very last scene.

Surprises

The movie is well-known for its intricate plot twists and numerous subplots, as well as the many surprises the characters pull on each other. The characters themselves are well thought out, and their diverse personalities keep the story going.

One advantage of the book over the movie is that in reading it, one is less likely to get confused by the complex story.

The book was written more as a companion to the movie than as a novel unique to itself. And as a handy guide to the complex scams that its lead con-men brilliantly conceptualize and execute.

Seattle . . . From page H4

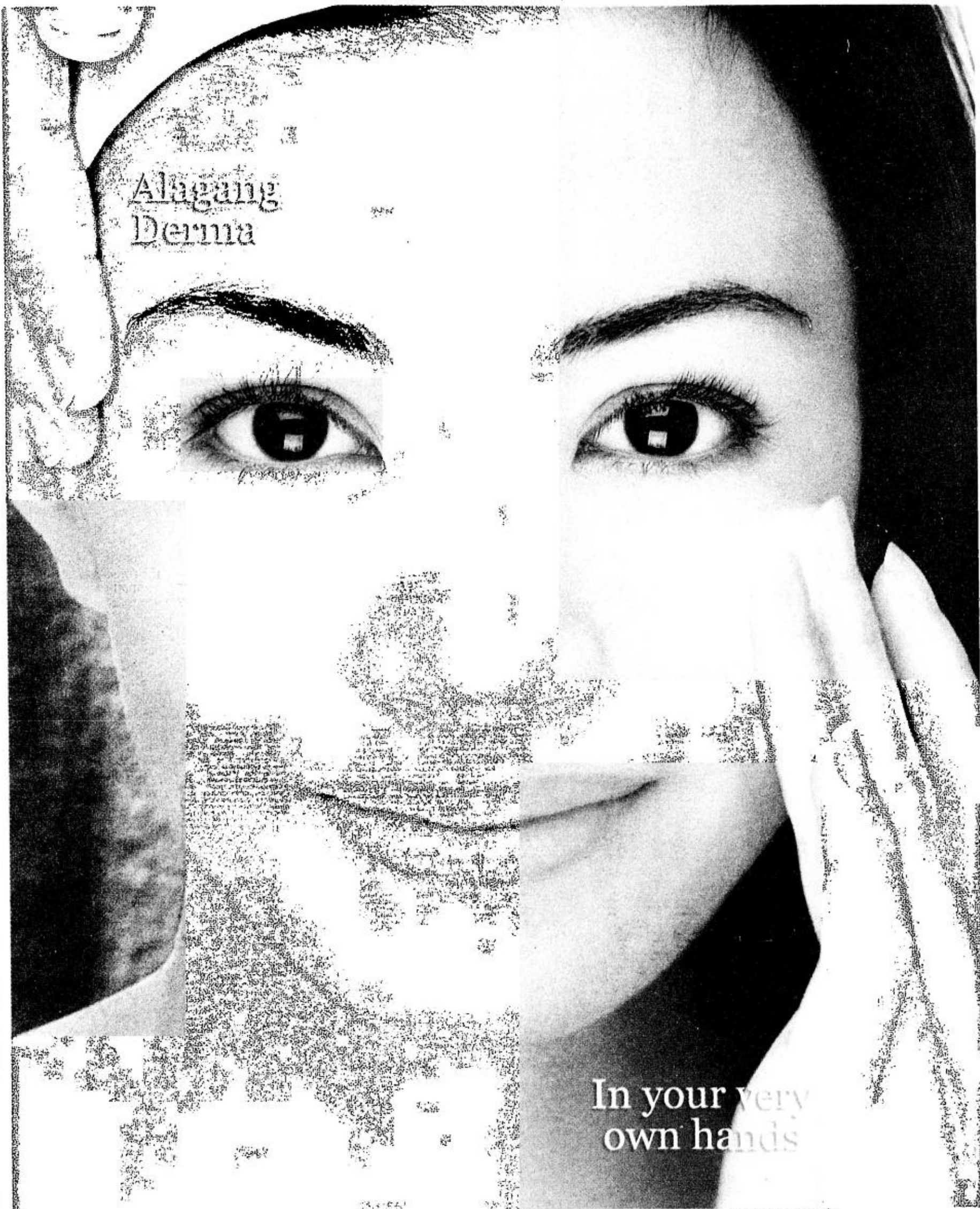
who bumped into Terry Blumer, a baritone with the Seattle Symphony Chorus, on the street in January after a performance by the group. The woman, whose name Blumer did not know, suggested that choruses form a ring around Ground Zero on Sept. 11 and sing Mozart's "Requiem."

"She said, 'Surely there would be enough of you for there to be one voice for every loss,'" Blumer said this week.

A few members of the chorus formed a committee and decided to organize two even grander efforts. One was the Rolling Requiem. The other was to invite singers from around the world to commemorate the first anniversary of the attacks at each crash site—New York, the Pentagon and Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Kathleen Ferrari, an alto in the chorus and one of the Rolling Requiem organizers, is the daughter of a retired New York City firefighter who lost six members of the Crown Heights ladder company he once led.

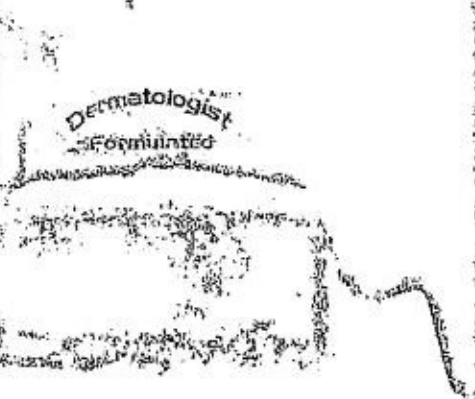
"It's going to be very difficult," Ferrari said. "Just thinking about it now makes me want to cry. I think with a lot of tissues and a lot of sniffing, we'll get through it." AP



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Zhang Yimou tries martial arts genre

HONG KONG—Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yimou is aiming for a wider audience with his first martial arts movie, but he insisted Friday he's not drifting away from his artistic tendencies.

Substance

"I will carry on with my usual style, with the emotions and spirit of the Chinese culture," Zhang told reporters here. "It's not just about beauty, it has to have substance to it and it has to evoke feelings in people."

Zhang's film "Hero" is expected in cinemas by the end of the year, and he acknowledged the interest in martial arts stirred up by Ang Lee's "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," which won an Oscar as best foreign film, helped motivate him.

"It's a very successful story—the most important thing about it is that it has established a martial arts frenzy in the international market," said Zhang, director of the acclaimed 1991 movie "Raise the Red Lantern."

First time

"I have always liked reading martial arts novels but this is the first time I've tried to make a movie on it," said Zhang.

"Hero" was filmed in various Chinese locations including Inner Mongolia and Sichuan and Zhejiang provinces. Its cast include superstars Maggie Cheung, Jet Li, Tony Leung and Zhang Ziyi.

Chinese composer Tan Dun, who won an Oscar and a Grammy for his score to "Crouching Tiger," will write the soundtrack for "Hero," Zhang said. AP



CHINESE filmmaker Zhang Yimou, left, and cartoonist Ma Wing-sing from Hong Kong display a poster for a comic book about their new movie, "Hero." (AP Photo/Anat Givon)

Seattle musicians organize series of Mozart 'Requiem' concerts

By Elizabeth Murtaugh

SEATTLE—A group of Seattle singers organizing a series of worldwide performances of Mozart's "Requiem" for Sept. 11 say they have gotten thousands of e-mails in support of the idea.

Heartfelt responses.

"The heartfelt nature of their responses is remarkable," said Madeline Johnson, chairwoman of the Rolling Requiem Committee and a member of the Seattle Symphony Chorale. "It shows there is a worldwide longing to give voice to healing, to hope, to love."

Thirty choirs from around the world have signed up to take part in the "Rolling Requiem" and many more are considering joining, Johnson said.

A choir in Riga, Latvia, was among the first to respond, writing, "Not only will we sing in our country's largest performance space, we are inviting choirs from all over our country to join us."

A Boston choir responded that the invitation left some members in tears. A backer of the idea in Wales invited 200 Welsh choirs. A singing group in Taipei is organizing a network of Taiwanese choirs.

First attack

Each performance is to begin at 8:46 a.m.—the time of the first attack on the World Trade Center in New York—starting at the international date line and moving westward by time zone.

Organizers say a list of those who died in the attacks will be given to each choir and each singer will make a heart badge with one of the names to wear.

The Seattle Symphony's music director, Gerard Schwarz, will conduct the "Requiem" at the city's Paramount Theater, leading about 50 orchestra members, a chorus of 120 and four soloists.

"As far as I'm concerned, nothing is more appropriate than a requiem, and there is no requiem more appropriate than the Mozart 'Requiem,'" Schwarz said.

Jack McAuliffe, chief operating officer for the American Symphony Orchestra League, said many of the organization's 900-member orchestras already have been planning commemorative concerts by the time he learned about the Rolling Stones' performance. "We're going to have a Requiem earlier this week. His group will poll members to see if they would like to join the effort."

Suggestion

The idea for the Rolling Requiem began with a suggestion from a music lover

[illegible]

Ako rin, speaking
English good!
(Joke lang.)



Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2002 ♦ 12 PAGES ♦ VOLUME 6, NUMBER 47

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A NEW SCHOOL BARKADA ON TV

*An English-speaking carabao, a bookstore for second-hand books, smart kids and a practical science guide
makes learning an interesting journey*

By Mae Astrid Tobias

LAST July, the staff and crew of the show, "Eskwela ng Bayan," trekked to Galalang, a small *barangay* straddling the provinces of Quezon and Laguna. They brought with them video copies of their new TV show that they wanted the students to see. After the children saw the program, they were heard arguing.

"It's a carabao!"

"No, it's just someone inside a costume."

"No, it's a carabao!"

"A person inside a costume."

Well, it sure looks like Karen Kalabaw has made a lasting impression on the students of Galalang. And she's just one of the interesting characters kids have been seeing on television in the past few months.

"Eskwela ng Bayan" is a brand new educational

children's show that started airing last June. It was created to help Grades 5 and 6 children, especially in the remote rural areas, learn their lessons in school. The program is divided

into four segments—English, Filipino, Math and Science.

The show tries to make learning more fun with the help of songs, stories, animation and, of course, by introducing characters that kids can relate to. Based on lesson plans prepared by teachers of the Department of Education, the people behind "Eskwela ng Bayan" try to create an interesting story that will teach children valuable lessons and help kids understand their subjects in school better.

The Farmer and His Carabao

Wouldn't it be great if animals can talk? In "Karen's World," you will meet Karen Kalabaw, a real live talking carabao that speaks perfect English.

Not only that, Karen reads everything, even road signs. She often shares what she knows with her best friend, the farmer, Inggo, who is always hungry to learn something new. Being with Karen all the

A New/ p. 11



NEW FRIENDS. The cast of *Eskwela ng Bayan*: (from left to right) Ma. Charisma Soriano, Tonipet Gaba, Carmina Aquino, Monica Llamas, Christian Alvear, Rosa Nalundasan, Imanwel, and Martina Quesada.

Larry Bee Happy

By Eline Santos

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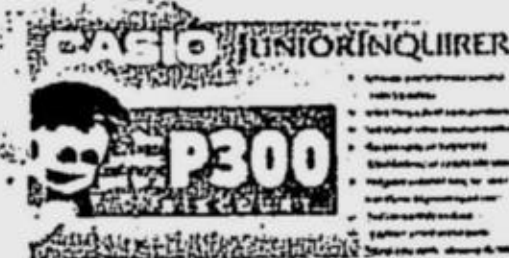
3 Best Featured Kids For 2002

If you think you're 'Rrific or know someone who is, just fill up the nomination form found in Kids R 'Rrific Page & Send to:

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R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honor list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!



A SLICE of life at Jollibee

"I'M very lucky to have married a kind man like Larry. *Wala nang kasing bait*. I am very thankful. I consider myself very lucky," Guadalupe Alcala, the cartoonist's widow, shares at the launching of the Bee Happy murals at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall last Aug. 16.

"I remember the little things *na ginagawa niya*. *'Yan ang nakakasakit sa loob ko*."

"He would say, 'Let's eat out *para di ka na mapagod, para ma-relax ka*. He would pour a glass of milk for me every morning—until the last—*para daw sa mga bones ko*."

Happily married for 47 years, Tita Lupe says they would have celebrated their 48th anniversary on Oct. 5. "We would have celebrated our golden anniversary in three years."

Another occasion where his presence would be sorely missed is his birthday. "His birthday is on August 18."

"You'll be surprised at how much people love him." Tita Lupe relates how a lot of people from remote barrios came to the wake.

Despite her grief, Tita Lupe shares "I'm very happy *na nag-iwan siya ng legacy*." His website states that Alcala made over 500 characters, 20 comic strips, six movies, two murals and 15,000 published pages in more than 50 years of cartooning.

"You know he was 75 years old and still very busy." His projects included three corporate murals which were left unfinished.

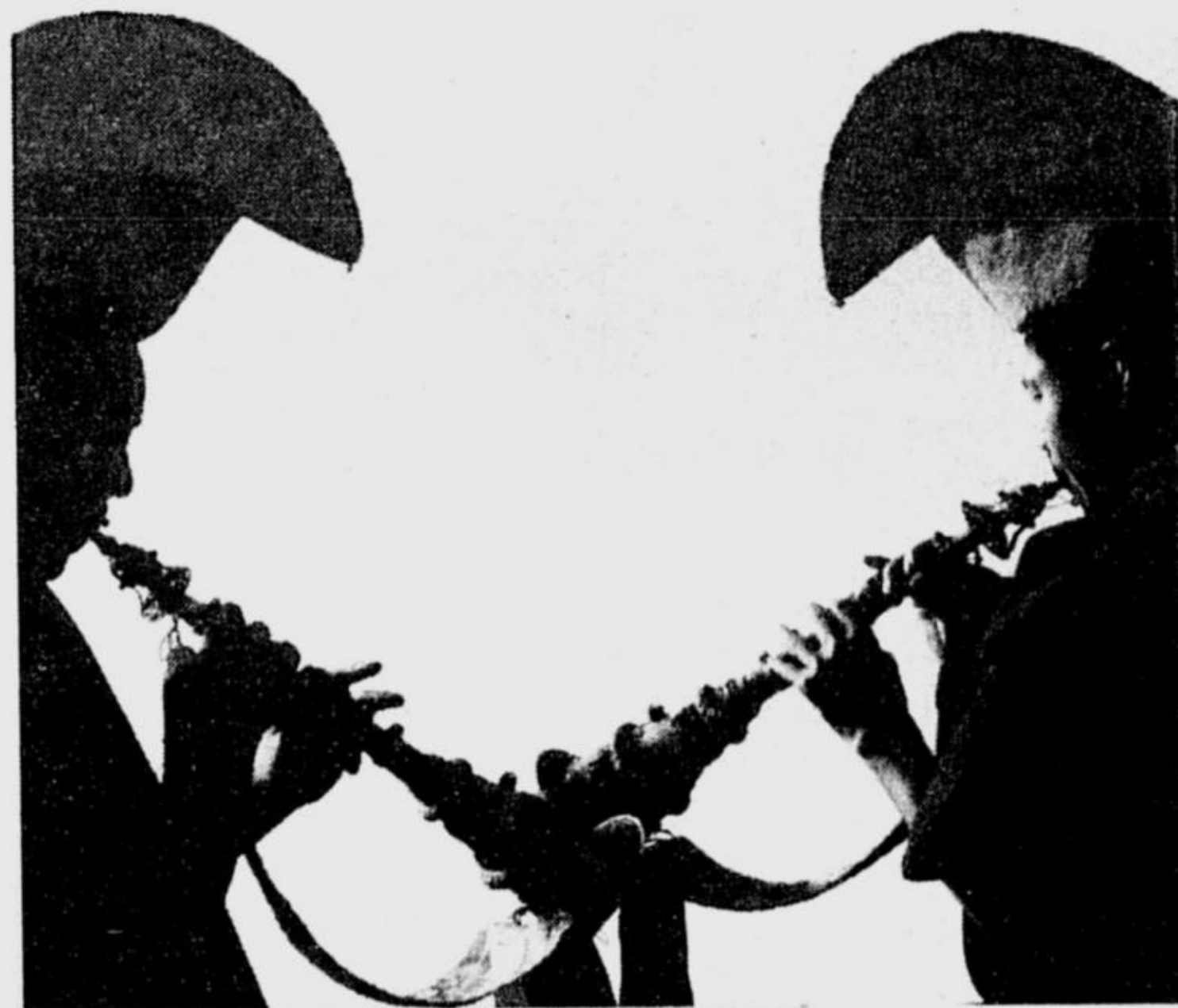
"*Maswerte ang Jollibee*," Guadalupe says because her husband was able to fin-



Purry Thanks!

AFTER mail carrier Brooke Connors found a 2-day-old kitten under the hood of a postal vehicle, she used her two-week vacation to nurture her new pet around the clock. Thanks to her TLC, Peanut graduated to a small bottle after days of being fed with an eyedropper. AP

World Scope



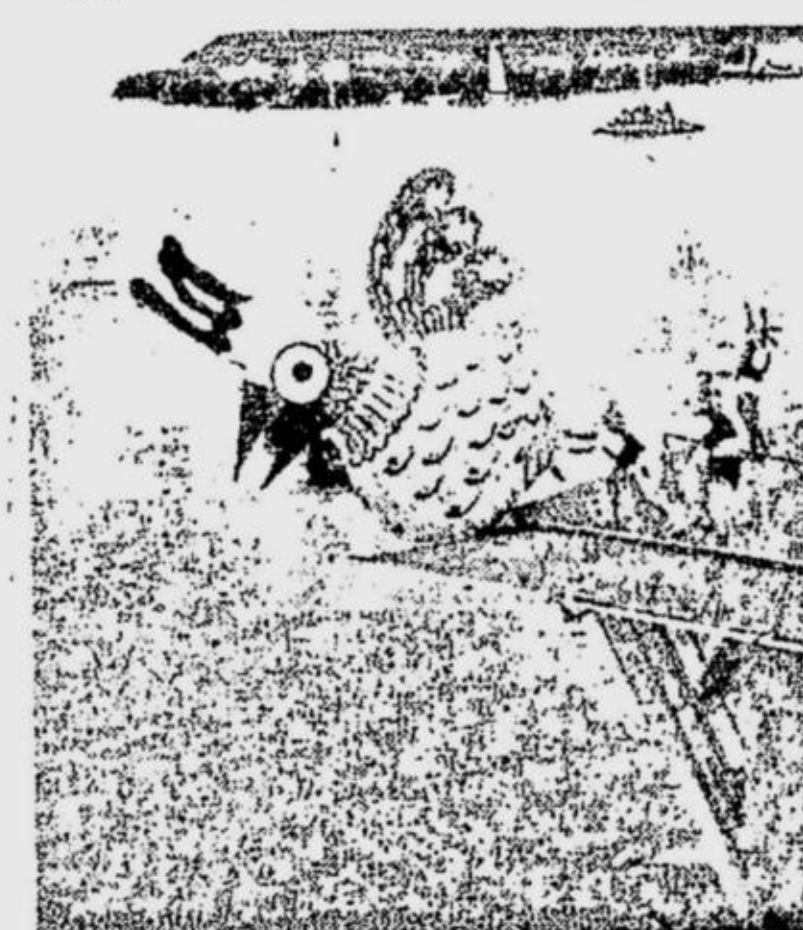
Yogurt Festival

TWO lamas play bugles during the Shoton Festival at the Drepung Monastery in Lhasa. Also known as the Yogurt Festival, monks and nuns were offered yogurt to mark the end of their annual summer retreat. The Giant Thangka activity, always held on June 30, according to the Tibetan calendar, is the highlight of the festival. AP



A Different Summer Camp

SADAR Kamaluddin of Kabul, 13, not only lost a leg to a landmine... he lost his father in the war in Afghanistan. But Sadar and 80 orphans from seven nations set aside their differences to share stories, play together and advocate peace at the 3rd International Summer Camp for Bereaved Orphans in Tokyo. AP



The Hen is Falling!

TAKE off? Or take a fall? This self-made plane is one of at least 45 machines that nosedived into water in the first "Flying Parade" held on Lake Velence, in Velence town southwest of Budapest. The extreme air parade was named after Leonardo da Vinci who drew up designs for a flying machine as early as 1488. AP

Workshops

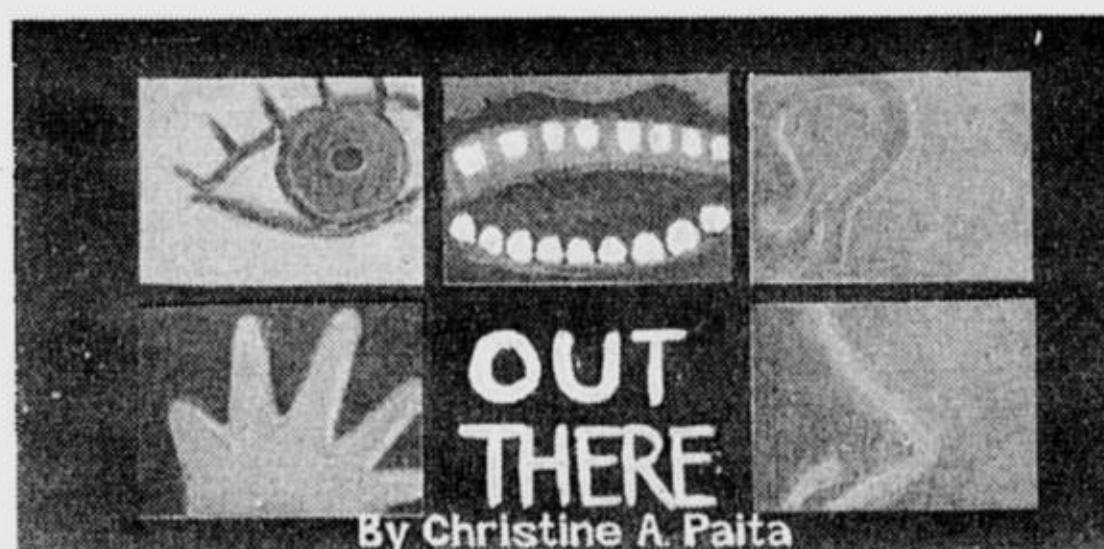
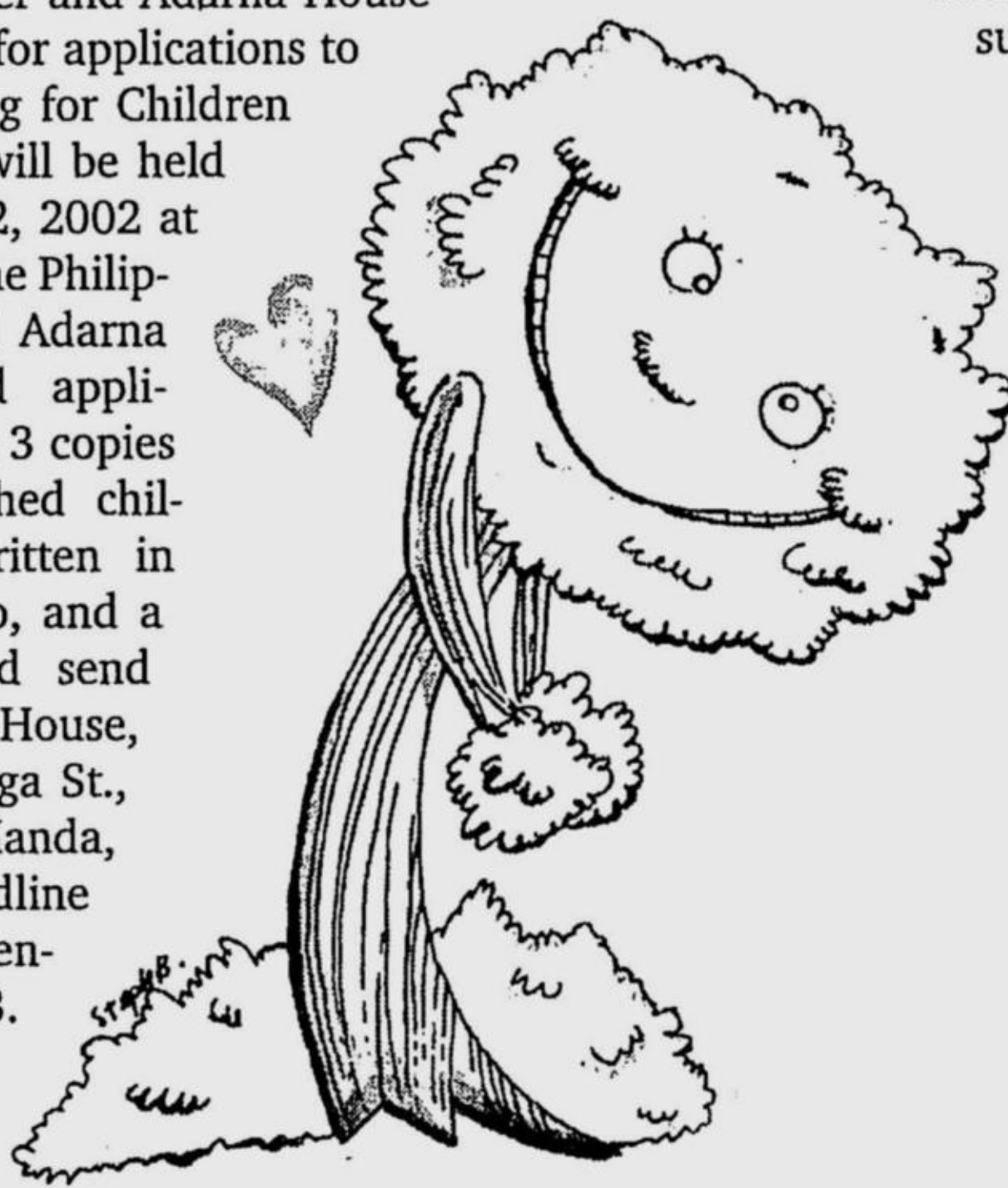
ART STROKES. Join Outlet Yard's "Art Strokes" art workshop this September, featuring Drawing and Sketching, Sept. 7-8; Pastel Drawing, Sept. 14; Watercolor Painting, Sept. 21-22; and Oil Painting, Sept. 28-29; from 2 to 4 p.m. The workshop is open to children and adults. Outlet Yard is located at 1480 Quezon Ave., Q.C. For details, please call 740-7221.

ARTS AND CRAFTS. The fun at Jollibee continues with its series of workshops for kids ages 12 and below. Check out the following schedule of activities:

- Sept. 7—Clay Brooch Pin, Jollibee Kalookan-LRT; Decorative Pot Painting, Jollibee Grand Central; Sketching and Drawing, Jollibee Sta. Lucia Grand Mall; Puzzle Wall Decor, Jollibee Royal Family Mall; Bunny Basket, Jollibee Robinsons Metro East;
- Sept. 14—Clay Necklace, Jollibee Kalookan-LRT; Animal Hand Puppet, Jollibee Grand Central; Wormy Picture Frame, Jollibee Sta. Lucia Phase 1; Monkey Mobile, Jollibee Sta. Lucia Grand Mall; Do-it-yourself Magnet, Jollibee Robinsons Metro East

Kids can enjoy lots of games and prizes, freebies, Jollibee Langhap-sarap products, a Jollibee mascot show, and more! For more info, please call Ghem, Ana or Joy at 363-4690 or 363-7659, or email eserrano@info.com.ph.

WRITING FOR CHILDREN. The UP Creative Writing Center and Adarna House announce the call for applications to the Barlaya Writing for Children Workshop which will be held from Oct. 10 to 12, 2002 at the University of the Philippines-Diliman and Adarna House. Interested applicants must submit 3 copies of their unpublished children's stories, written in English or Filipino, and a short resume and send them to Adarna House, 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of entries is on Sept. 13. For more info, please call Allan Popa at 372-3548 to 49.



Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Contests

PBBY. Calling all writers, the Philippine Board on Books for Young People is now accepting entries for the 2003 PBBY-Salanga Writers' Prize. Entries may be in Filipino or English, and must be typewritten double-spaced on short bond paper. Those interested may submit more than one entry and send to the PBBY Secretariat, c/o Adarna House, Inc., 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of entries is on November 5, 2002. For more info, please contact PBBY at tel nos. 372-3548 or 49 or fax no. 372-4204, or send email to pbby@adarna.com.ph.

KUWENTONG KALIKASAN. Hey kids, do you have stories about Mother Earth? Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. invites all elementary students to join the 9th RCBC Kuwentong Kalikasan Katha ng Kabataan, a short story writing contest on proper care of the environment. Kids can write their stories either in Filipino or English and submit them to any RCBC unibank or savings bank.

Entry forms are available in all RCBC unibank and savings business centers, DepEd offices, and school principal's offices. Deadline for submission is on Nov. 23, 2002. For more info, please call RCBC Corporate Communications Dept. at 894-9479, 878-3344 or 894-9000 loc. 2711/2730.

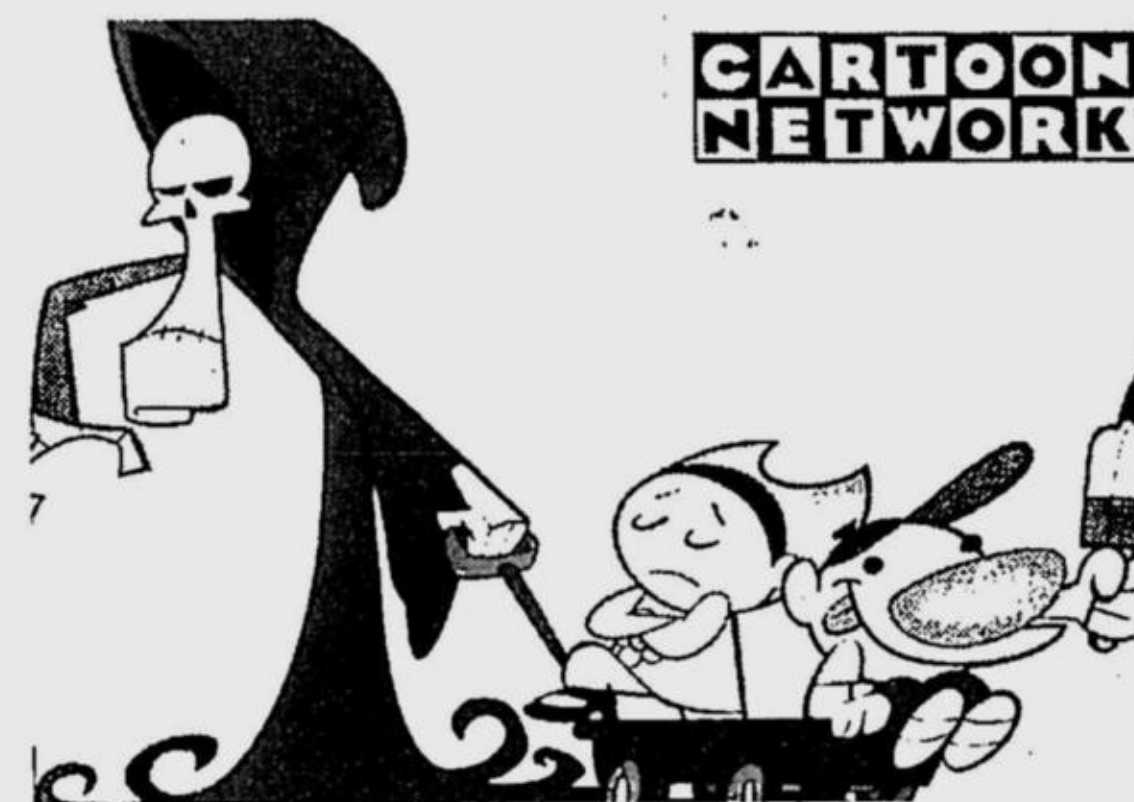
Events

BOOK FAIR. Come to the 2002 Philippine Book Fair from Aug. 31 to Sept. 8 at the Mega-

trade Hall, 5th Level, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Highlights of the book fair will be fun games and activities for children, storytelling, workshops, freebies, and launching of new books! For more info on the schedule of activities, please log on to www.goodwillbookstore.com.

NEW BOOKS. One big reason to get excited on Sept. 7 is the launch of Adarna House's 22 new titles at the 13th Philippine Book Fair! The launch will be held at the Function Room B of the Megatrade Hall, 5th Level, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City, at 6:30 p.m. It will also feature Alitaptap storytellers. Visit the Adarna booth for freebies with any purchase of new titles and discounts of as much as 50% on selected titles. The Philippine Book Fair will run from Aug. 31 to Sept. 8.

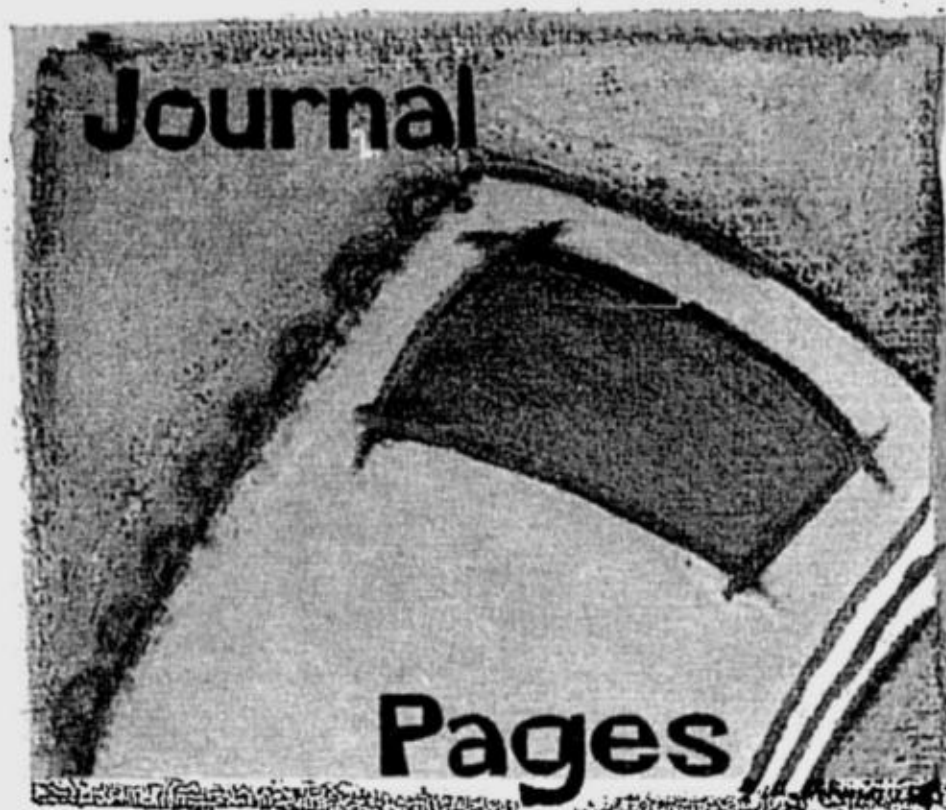
FILMSHOWING. Get to watch your favorite Adarna book characters come to life in Adarna House's "Mga Kuwentong Pambata: Adarna Animation" at Museo Pambata today, Aug. 31, at 2 and 4 p.m. For more info, please call 523-1797/98 or email pr-prog@museopambata.org.



Cable Picks

NEW TOON SHOWS. Catch "Grim and Evil," the latest cartoon show to hit Cartoon Network. The show features two cartoons, "The Grim Adventures of Billy and Mandy," where a boy and girl befriends the Grim Reaper and teaches him about school, chores and friendship; and "Evil Con Carne," a happy little cartoon about a brain with a past. Starts Sept. 1 and airs Sundays at 7 p.m., Mondays at 12:30 p.m., and Fridays at 4:30 p.m.

Starting Sept. 2, Cartoon Network will also serve "Toons-si-log," a one-hour mix of your favorite cartoons such as the "Powerpuff Girls," "Johnny Bravo," "Dexter's Laboratory," "Ed, Edd and Eddy," "Mike, Lu and Og," "Cow and Chicken," "I am Weasel," and "Courage the Cowardly Dog." Airs weekdays at 7 a.m.



What If People Don't Grow Old?

By Stephanie C. Ferrer
St. Joseph's College, Quezon City



More people will be hungry and homeless.

Sure, it would be great to see Albert Einstein and other great people alive. But you should consider and accept the fact that staying young forever will do us more damage than benefit.

If people don't grow old there won't be grandparents giving wisdom to their grandchildren. No more stories of their childhood in the province or about the olden times. Everyone will be reckless. Always having fun with no responsibilities but with only the thought of pleasing themselves. There won't be parents or adults to guide us.

Youth is a wonderful and fun time to be cherished by every person. But growing old will give a person wisdom, contentment and true happiness that they always longed for.

YOUTH is an exciting stage in a person's life. Let's face it, nobody really wants to grow old. Sure, kids want to grow up so they can do the things that adults do. But when they get to be adults, they find out that growing old is not at all a pleasing idea.

There are so many reasons why being young is great. But do you ever ask yourselves: "What if people don't grow old?" There would be overpopulation and poverty will get worse.

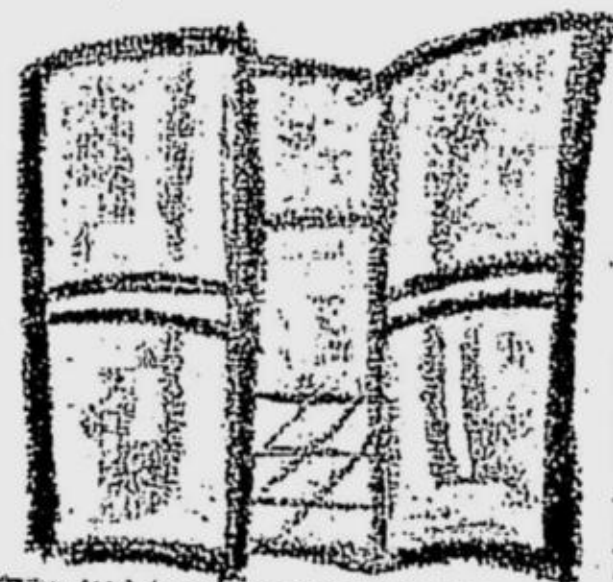
Sound Familiar?

Write down your thoughts now
and send them to JI. Who knows,
you might just get published!

Straight From JI Readers



You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is ji@inquirer.com.ph Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Spicing up JI

DEAR Editor,

I just can't say how much I really like JI and just to help you a little bit, I have some new ideas to spice up your kiddie newspaper. One is that I think you should add more articles about kid movies so that the kids will be encouraged to watch and enjoy these movies together with their parents and siblings.



Another idea I have is to add some sports articles for boys who really enjoy sports so that they will read your newspaper.

And last but not the least, to all you writers and editors there at JI, think like kids again! Become who you were 20-30 years ago. It really works wonders for people. I promise! Thanks a lot and stay cool!—REGINA WASSMER, 10, Makati City

Junior INQUIRER

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Editor

LYNETT A. VILLARIBA
Design Consultant

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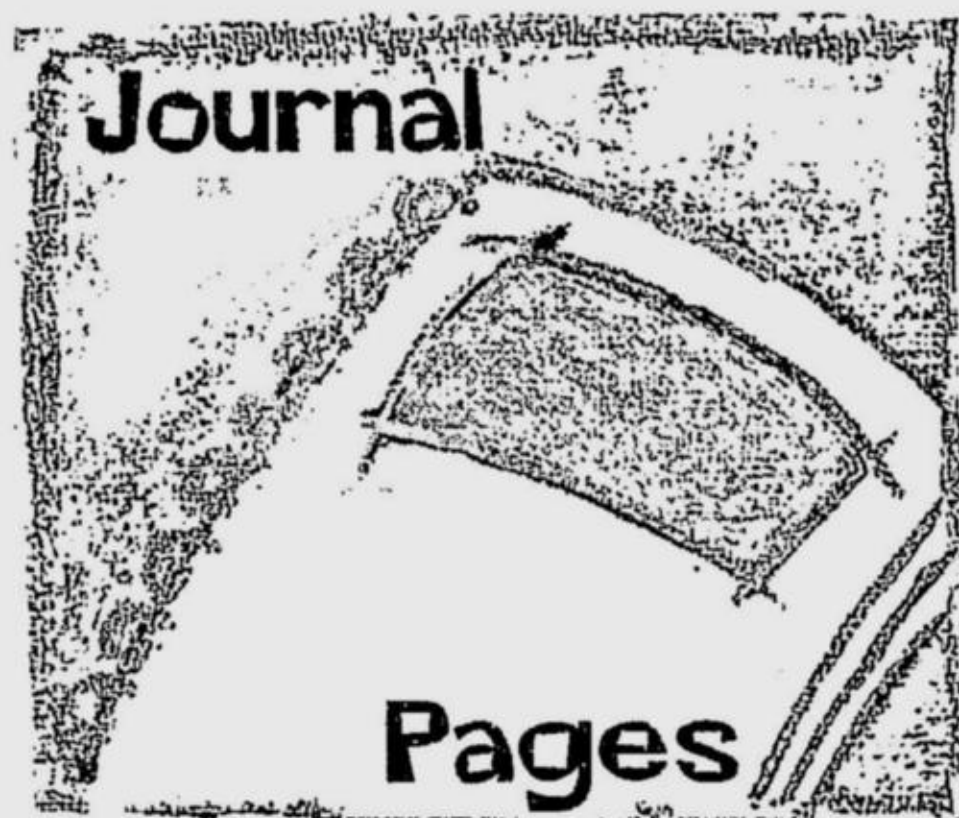
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Philippine Daily Inquirer,
P.O. Box 2353,
Makati Central Post Office,
1263 Makati City,
Philippines



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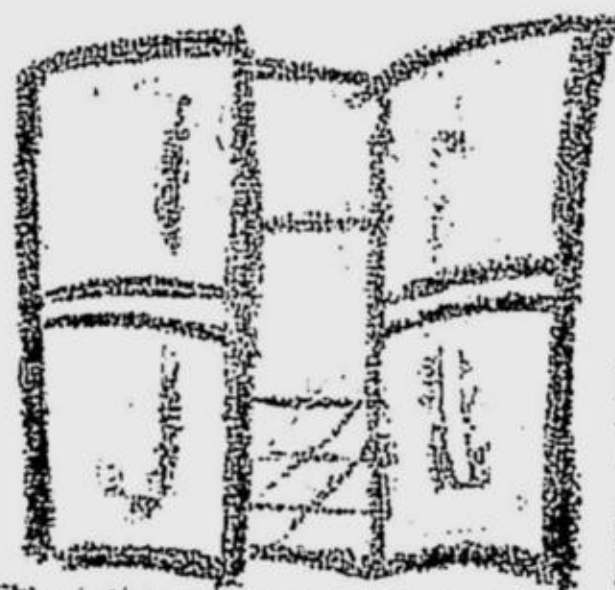
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Historical fiction by J.E. Royeca
Art by Panch Alcaraz

BIANG was on the bank of the river that afternoon with her pet Pongsi. She liked it here because the hills, rocks, and woods there in their place in Diliman were always lovely every afternoon. There was a sudden rain that mid-afternoon. It dampened everything and cleared the skies. The skies were now very blue and the clouds were white and thin.

Biang was worried about Pongsi because he was limping. He got wounded when they were climbing down the rocky cliffs. She washed his wounded leg with soap and rinsed it many times. Then she dried it with a cloth.

"Ineng, you must go home now!"

Biang was surprised. Someone was telling her something. She stood up, turned around, and saw a strange-looking woman. She had long, white hair, wrinkled face, and a round

fat body. She had a *bayong* and a scarf wrapped around her shoulders.

"BIANG, your name is Biang, right?" the old woman asked.

Biang was frightened now. This old woman did not live in their *barangay* but she knew her name. Who could she be? Was she an aged *diwata*? A lost *maligno*? A *mangkukulam*? Why did she know her name? Where did she live?

"People will be arriving in your house," the old woman went on. "Go home now and help your mother attend to them."

Biang remained frozen. The old woman saw Pongsi's wound.

"Your dog is wounded. I can cure him," she smiled, asking Pongsi to come to her.

Limping, Pongsi gleefully walked toward the old woman while wiggling his tail. Biang was surprised with her dog. Pongsi did not approach people



The Mysterious Old Woman

he did not know and would bite whoever called him. But now, he just walked to the old woman as if he knew her.

The old woman took leaves from her *bayong*, whispered something into them, and put them on Pongsi's wounded leg. She then wrapped the leaves around Pongsi's leg with a small cloth.

"He'll be healed. Biang, you two go home now."

Before Biang could say anything, she saw her walk away and fade into the woods. She hurriedly led Pongsi to go home. "Let's go!"

BIANG saw her mother and their neighbors gathered in front of their house as if waiting for some people. She also noticed that Pongsi was no longer limping as if he were healed already.

"The revolution has begun," said Mang Lito, Biang's uncle. "Our brother Katipuneros have attacked the Spanish gunpowder depot in San Juan del Monte but—"

"But what?" asked Aling Amelia, Biang's mother.

"Our brother Katipuneros were defeated," Mang Lito answered remorsefully.

"Where is San Juan del Monte?" someone also asked.

"That's about four kilometers away from Intramuros, Manila," an elderly man answered.

"Our *Supremo*, Señor Andres Bonifacio, ordered that on the midnight of August 29, the other day, the revolution would be started in all towns," Mang Lito said. "But we could not carry it out. So yesterday, August 30, the *Supremo* led the attack in San Juan del Monte but the Spaniards had more arms. Our

fellow Katipuneros were defeated."

"Many of the elderly and the elderly who survived will stay today to hide in the meantime."

"Is Lando w... Amelia asked Mang Lito.

"Yes."

Mang Lito and a Katipunero were the Philippine rule of the Philippines was of the Filipino. He the Filipino. He and not like the Spaniards.

"THE *Supremos* are arriving," he shouted from the village.

The villagers greet them. The wounded, bloated, hungry. They spears. She saw a man who could be the *Supremo*, she man was also with a pistol.

"Long live Andres Bonifacio," he said.

"Long live," he answered.

Aling Amelia was happy to see him again.

"The *Supremo* should," Mang Lito formed Aling



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Mang Lando in-
Amelia and the



"This old woman
did not live in their
barangay but she
knew her name.

Who could she be?"

rest there. He ruffled Biang's hair and nodded at Pongsi who wiggled his tail when he saw him.

"He was hit by a bullet when he pushed me," the young man helping the Supremo also said. "I could have been killed had he not pushed and saved me."

"We're very tired and hungry," Mang Lando said, asking them for help.

Everyone took his turn to help. They gave food, water, blanket, chairs, table, and everything to comfort the Katipuneros.

Mang Lando invited the Supremo and others into their house. They put the Supremo on a wooden bed. Everyone was worried about what would happen to the Katipunan and the revolution if he died. He had a fever and was bleeding. What would happen to the Katipunan and the revolution if he died?

"Emilio," Mang Lando told the young man, "we don't have cures here for our Supremo."

Emilio Jacinto could not answer. The Supremo was his dear friend who was like a big brother to him.

A LITTLE later, Biang saw the old woman she met at the river this mid-afternoon. She was smiling at her.

"Biang? Can I see the Supremo? I think I can make him well," the old woman said.

From the window, Biang signaled to her to wait for a moment. She went out of their house with her father. The old woman said that she was a *herbularia* who had cured many people's ailments. Biang added that she cured Pongsi's wound and that her dog was okay now. Mang Lando was suspicious of her but let her cure the Supremo anyway.

The old woman applied leaves into the Supremo's wounded shoulder after whispering words into them. "Boil water with leaves of guava, *singkamas* fruits, leaves of bittermelon, and these small seeds." She said, giving those seeds to Mang Lando.

"Make him drink the concoction. If he drinks enough, he will recover soon. Make the other wounded also drink the concoction."

Before they could say thank you to her, she immediately disappeared. Biang ran out of the house to thank her, followed by Pongsi. Biang saw her again walk away and disappear into the woods.

After two days, the Supremo had recovered and because his wound was getting healed, he was all ready to lead the revolution once more.

Biang did not see again the mysterious old woman.

J.E. writes historical fiction for kids and just loves anything about Jose Rizal.

Panch is a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan. She has illustrated two new books, "Alamat ng Bahaghari" by Rene Villanueva and "Broken Eggs."

Speaking Up

Her dreams might shift from cartoons to computers, but whatever Abbie puts her mind to do, she has the talent to make her dreams come true

By Eline Santos

MARY Therese Aprille Paras has been a first honor student all throughout her elementary schooling. Surprisingly, the grade 5 student of Southernside Montessori School in Muntinlupa likes her art class best.

"I want to create my own cartoons that are original. I want Filipinos to have original cartoons of their own," 10-year-old Abbie declares.

"My classmates ask me to draw their favorite cartoon characters," and she shows us her rendition of Rukawa from "Slam Dunk," her preferred anime at the moment.

"[But] I don't want to imitate Japanese or Chinese cartoons," Abbie says. She wants to make Filipinos proud of her original work. She watches cartoons and surfs the net "for reference, to get ideas."

But looking for fresh ideas for her animation isn't the only reason why she uses the Net. "I like surfing the net when I have my research." Being a computer engineer is another career option that appeals to her. "I really like computers." Her favorite games include SIMS and Barbie. "My Encarta Encyclopedia is also on the computer."

Not only is she the class president, Abbie is also the unofficial scriptwriter and leading lady of their class skits. "Lahat, ako gumagawa ng script."

This year, she wrote a play about discipline for their scouting group, and another play on the barangay for their civics class. "I like their laws, the *datus*, the barangay system," Abbie tells us.

She's won spelling, civics, math and science contests

at one time or another but the awards she brings home consistently are the elocution prizes. Since preparatory school, she's won four golds and one silver medal in the English category, and four bronzes and two silver medals in Filipino.

"I like it when people clap for me when I'm doing my elocution piece," says Abbie.

"Don't be afraid," she gives a tip on winning. "Huwag nilang isipin na maraming tao ang nanonood sa kanila. Have confidence. Do your best. Ilabas mo ang natatago mong galing, kung hindi, hindi ka magtatagumpay."



WINNING SMILE. Abbie proudly wears her elocution medals.

BETOY JOHNSON

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a

FREE Junior Inquirer & CASIO EMI T-shirt,
Plus! a chance to win a Keylighting keyboard!

Kids'r'rific

nomination form

I nominate: _____

Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at _____

and studies at _____

Her/his contact number is: _____

Sender's Name: _____

Sender's Age & School: _____

Sender's Address: _____

Sender's Contact No.: _____



Puppeteer Papa

From ad man to puppet master, Ony Carcamo changed his work into a fun way of life

By Eline Santos

A MAN, his wife and their four-year-old Audrey live in a house that seems quite ordinary.

Except Ony Carcamo's household includes a dodo bird named Dodong, Lulu the possum, and an orangutan called Rangu. Ka Lario, a 90-year-old poet, and Kenneth, a 6-year-old boy, are also part of Ony's puppet family.

Ony Carcamo is a puppeteer.

"I prefer to be known as a ventriloquist," he corrects. "I like the craft of ventriloquism. Not so many Filipinos do that so there is a niche I can fill."

Ony's main sidekick is Kenneth, a traditional ventriloquist doll made of wood. The vent doll was named after the friend who brought Kenneth home from the US.

"Kenneth is like Audrey's older brother. When I do storytelling, I storytell with both Audrey and Kenneth." The two sit on his lap, one on each side.

"Of course, Audrey will outgrow Kenneth. Kenneth will be forever six years old." Maybe she'll even take over Dad's job someday. "She knows how to do it *na*," he proudly relates that Audrey is picking up puppeteering skills.

Making time for the family

Ony finished a degree in electrical engineering from the Mapua Institute of Technology but never used it. He had a career in advertising that he pursued for over a decade. "When you're in advertising, you don't have a life," he recalls.

Finding his talent in ventriloquism he realized, "It can be a career so I developed routines, tested projects."

He put up Laff and Learn Entertainment and now performs anywhere and everywhere he can.

"My work was my life," he describes his corporate life before. "Now it's the opposite. My life is my work." He is thankful because, "The time you spend with your family can't be equaled by money."



SERIOUSLY, HE'S JOKING. Ony has two Palanca awards to his name and still writes everyday.

ROGER CARPIO

Laughter All the Time

He really enjoys entertaining kids. "When children laugh, that's 100% authentic. It doesn't mean anything else other than they are happy."

As the name of his company implies, Ony likes his audience to laugh while they learn.

At the show he performed for Ste. Anne de Baupre School's 15th anniversary, Ony, Kenneth, and Dodong shared the value of exercising, and eating fruits and veggies.

Unknown to the puppet master, the sick Dodong was secretly wiping his snot on Ony's shoulder.

With a mischievous smile, Kenneth admits that he enjoyed moments, "*pag naiisahan ko si Kuya Ony.*"

Kuya Ony doesn't seem to get mad though. After all, with the help of his puppets, he can make a living having fun and still spend time with his family at home.



Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, **YOU'LL** get a free J! T-shirt! Now that's really cool.

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate _____
He/She is _____ years old and
is my _____

Here are five super solid reasons
why I think you should write about
him/her:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

My nominee lives a _____

Give him/her a call at _____
or send him/her an e-mail at _____

By the way, I'm _____

I'm _____ years old.

My address is _____

You may call me at _____

Larry Bee... (from page 2)

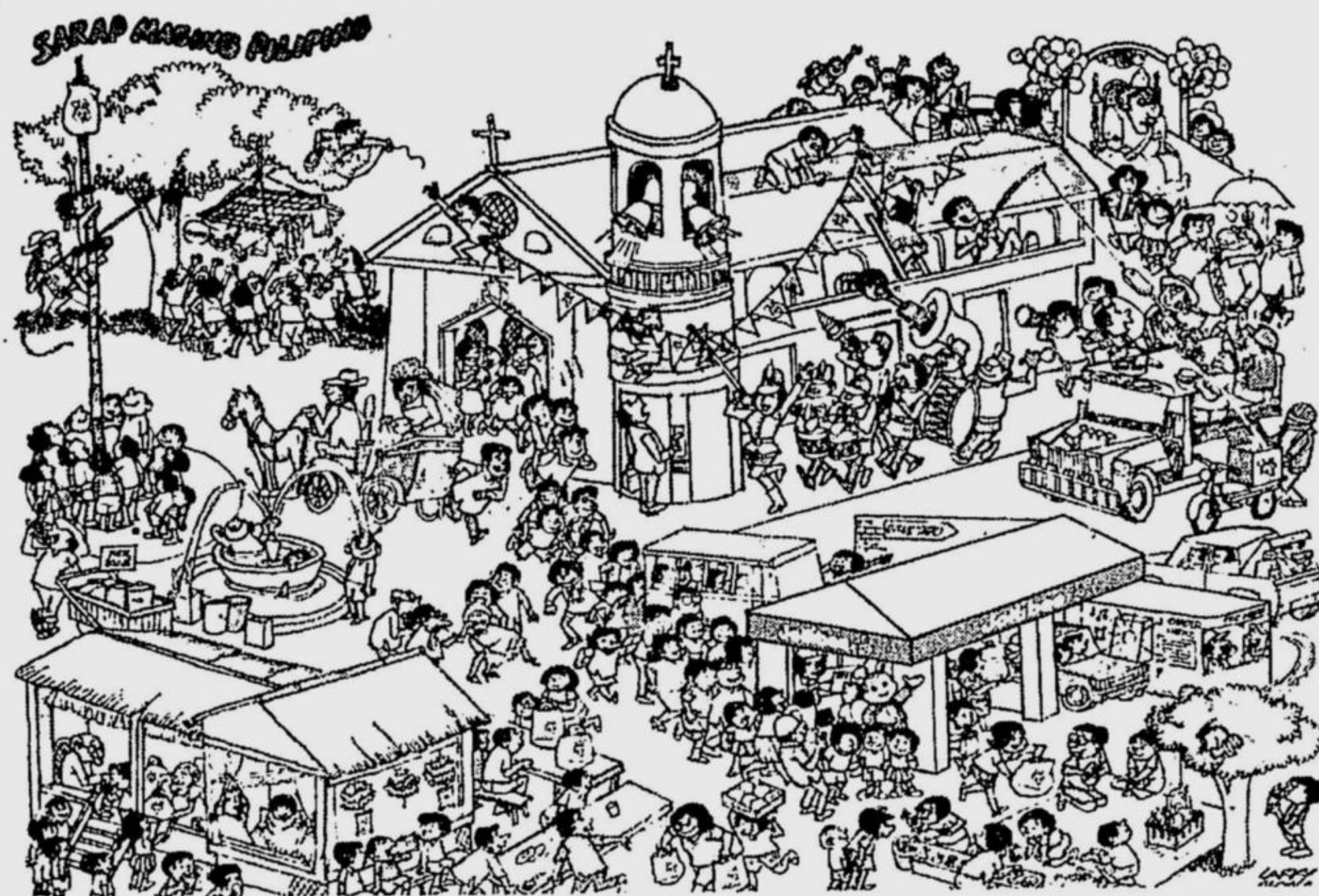
ish the Bee Happy murals before his death.

Five murals were unveiled at the Shangri-la Plaza Mall branch with Larry's family and friends in attendance.

Pinky Laurel, Jollibee marketing manager, came close to tears as she recalled her family's Sunday ritual of checking out "Slice of Life" in the Panorama. "We'd look for his face. It was like a race between me, my brother, my dad and my mom."

"Buhay na Langhap ang Sarap" depicts the scent of Jollibee burgers turning a town upside down. "Sarap Maging Filipino" is set in a town fiesta while "Buhay na Enjoy" depicts Pinoy fun with *patintero*, tennis on the roof, *piko* and other games. The other two murals are entitled "Buhay na Espesyal" and "Langhap Sarap Kahit Saan, Kahit Kailan".

The cartoon murals will be displayed all over the country. And you can get into your own race looking for the concealed face of Larry Alcala.



In Memory of August

THE eighth month of the year is named after Augustus Caesar, the first Roman emperor and grandnephew of Julius Caesar. Can you recall some important events that took place in August?

1. Two Philippine presidents were born in August. One of them was Manuel L. Quezon (1878). Who was the other?

- Carlos P. Garcia
- Ramon Magsaysay
- Sergio Osmeña

2. On August 6, 1945, the world's first atomic bomb was dropped by a US Air Force B-29 bomber, nick-

named "Enola Gay," on which Japanese city?

- Hiroshima
- Nagasaki
- Tokyo

3. Which prolific inventor made the first recording of the human voice (his own) using the revolutionary phonograph on August 12, 1877?

- Alexander Graham Bell
- John Kenwood
- Thomas A. Edison

4. Juan de la Cruz, the caricature who became symbol of the Filipino Everyman, made his first public appearance on August 29, 1908, on which publication?

- Philippine Free Press
- Liwayway
- Manila Times

5. The man considered the most famous baseball player of all time died, at age 53, in New York on August 16, 1948. Who was this "Sultan of Swat"?

- Lou Gehrig
- George Herman "Babe" Ruth
- Joe DiMaggio

6. What volcano blew its top on August 27, 1883 in the most catastrophic eruption in recorded history, leaving an estimated

36,000 people dead?

- Vesuvius (Italy)
- Mauna Loa (Hawaii)
- Krakatoa (Indonesia)

7. What musical group made its last public performance at San Francisco's Candlestick Park on August 29, 1966?

- Beatles
- Led Zeppelin
- Beach Boys

8. Name the first Filipino cardinal, who was born in Guagua, Pangasinana, on August 26, 1908.

- Jorge Barlin
- Gregorio Aglipay
- Rufino J. Santos

9. Who made history on August 8, 1974 as the first US president to resign from office in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal?

- Lyndon B. Johnson
- Richard Nixon
- Gerald Ford

10. Which famed explorer began his first voyage to the New World on August 3, 1492 from the Spanish port of Palos de la Frontera?

- Hernando Cortez
- James Cook
- Christopher Columbus

11. The "King of Rock 'n' Roll"

died on August 16, 1977 after collapsing at his mansion in Memphis, Tennessee. Who?

- Chuck Berry
- Bill Haley
- Elvis Presley

12. Name the first feature film produced in the Philippines and shown at the Manila Grand Opera House on August 23, 1912.

- "La Vida de Rizal"
- "Syncopation"
- "Dalagang Bukid"

Answers:

1. Ramon Magsaysay (1907)
2. Hiroshima
3. Thomas A. Edison
4. Philippine Free Press
5. George Herman "Babe" Ruth
6. Krakatoa
7. Beatles
8. Rufino J. Santos
9. Richard Nixon
10. Christopher Columbus
11. Elvis Presley
12. "La Vida de Rizal" (The Life of Rizal)

Ratings:



A NEW... (from page 1)

time, Inggo gets to understand how to use English better instead of speaking "carabao English."

The New Bookshop in Town

In "Alikabuk," the Filipino program of "Eskwela ng Bayan," characters from our folktales come alive. You will also meet Jomel and Lola Priming, the owners of the second-hand bookshop, Alikabuk. Jomel is your average 12-year-old boy who just loves to read and is delighted to learn new things. Lola Priming, on the other hand, is your fun-loving grandmother Jomel can always turn to for help when he is faced with problems in school or with friends. Together, they meet characters like Pilandok, Mariang Makiling, and Karangkal who come to them for help to learn their *pangngalan*, *pandiwa*, *panghalip*, and more.

Why? That is the Question

Ever wondered why certain things work? Like why it rains or why the sky is blue? "Why?" is the science segment of the "Eskwela ng Bayan" program. There you will meet Ida Agham. She will take you to a wonderful journey in the world of science. But don't expect a fantasy world. Ida explains how the world works using things you can find in the kitchen, in the bathroom, or in the garden.

Not a Problem!

In the small town of Pulang Bato, you will meet three kids who aren't afraid of numbers. Tinay, Loloy, and Bubut are the cast of "Solved!" To them, math is not a problem you



KAREN'S WORLD. Be a good carabao, farmer Inggo seems to admonish Karen.

ROGER CARPIO



just encounter in school, it's in their everyday life. It's a good thing they know their fractions, decimal points, and multiplication tables because who knows when they have to figure out how much sugar they will need to prepare the refreshments for the town fiesta? Or how far it is from Pulang Bato to Sapang Palay?

You can catch your new friends everyday from Monday to Friday at 10 a.m. on the National Broadcasting Network. "Eskwela ng Bayan" is a project by the Office of the President in cooperation with the Department of Education and National Broadcasting Network. Dr. Ibarra Gonzales is its project director.

SOLVED! Loloy, Tinay and Bubut simply love numbers.

ROGER CARPIO

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

the official LUNCH BOX VOCABULARY

Make up your own words! Use them often!
We'll help you get started!

ERDOLE (ur-doul) - A relatively new pencil that has lost its eraser.

SHLUMP (shlump) - A stone or something bumpy trapped in your shoe.

SHOOT (brut) - When you jump into a pool and your shorts balloon.



Now YOU try it!!

Any sudden, weird movement you make while asleep.

The piece of food that flies out your mouth when you laugh.

The loud squeaking sound new chalk makes on the blackboard.

IT'S THE ONLY FISH THAT BLINKS



☐ Is it the bangus?

Our national fish, the bangus, lays millions of eggs in shallow water from March to May.

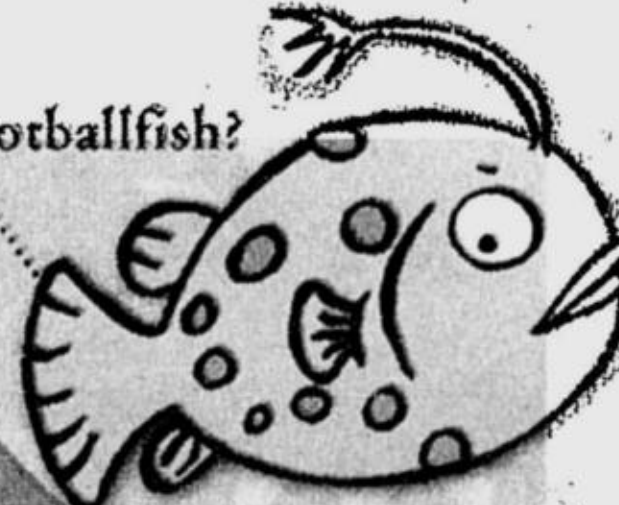
☒ your answer!

☐ Is it the shark?



Only a few species of shark are known to attack people. Humans aren't really on the shark's list of favorite food.

☐ Is the Atlantic Footballfish?



The footballfish is a deep-sea fish with a luminous bulb on its head, used to lure other fish for food.

Answer: It's the shark. A membrane goes up over their eyes when they bite down on their food.

SOMETHING'S FISHY

Which of these weird fish names aren't real? Cross out your suspects.

BLUE TANG

CLOWN FISH

BOMBAY DUCK

KOI

FORCEPS BUTTERFLY FISH

UMBRELLA MOUTH GULPER

HAGFISH

SKIPJACK

FLAT FISH

SEAHORSE

BIGMOUTH BUFFALO

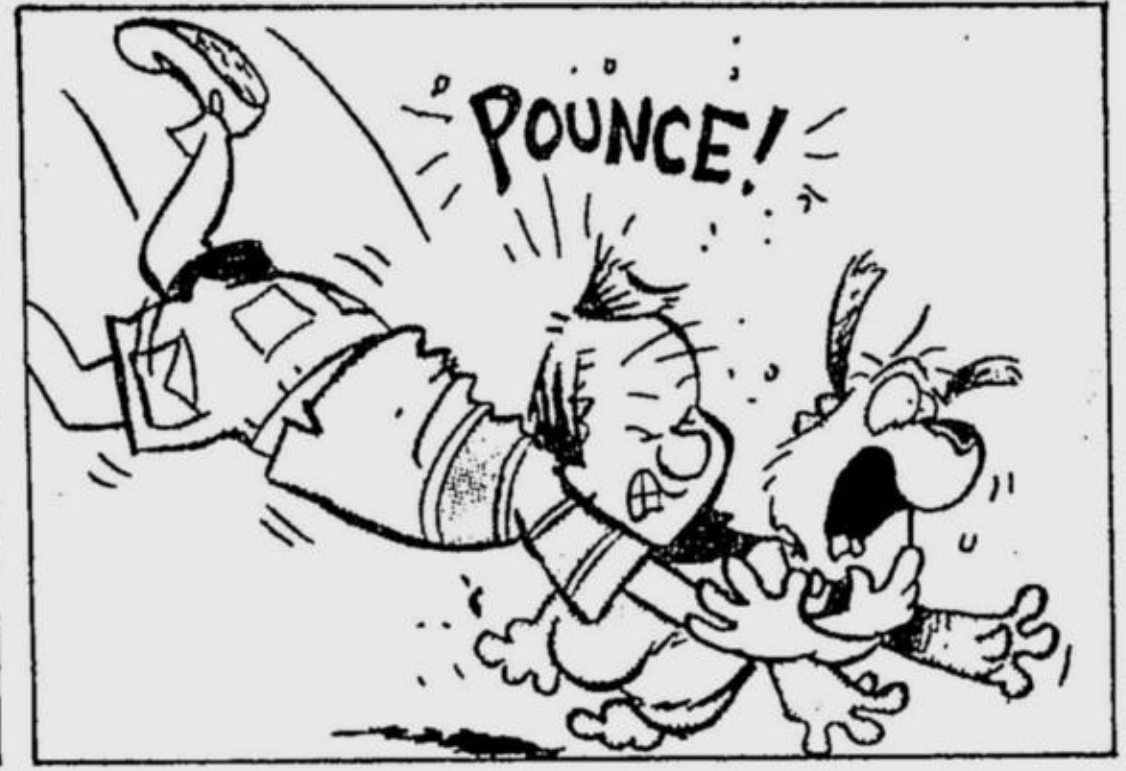
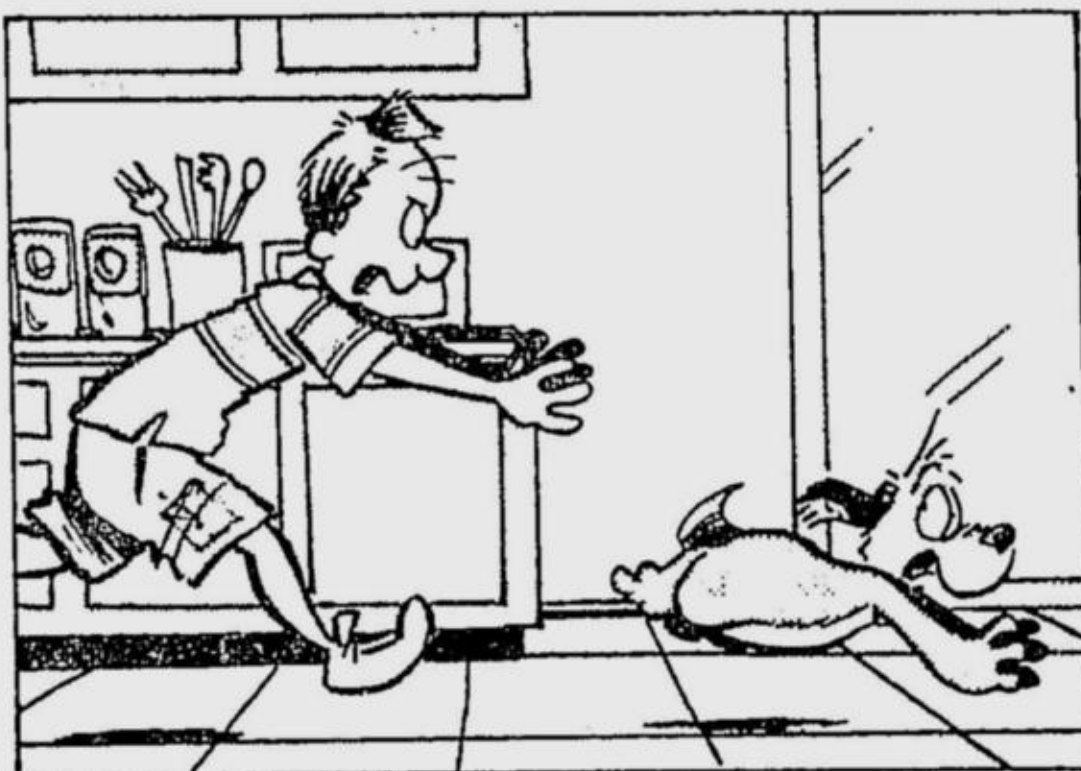
JOLLYTAIL



Answer: Only the all real fish named!

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT



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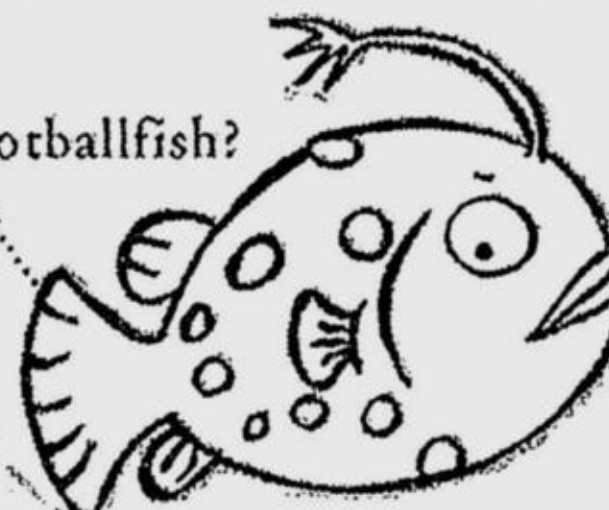
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FLAT FISH

SEABORSE

SKIPJACK

JOLLYTAIL

BIGMOUTH BUFFALO



Answer: they're all real fish names!

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT

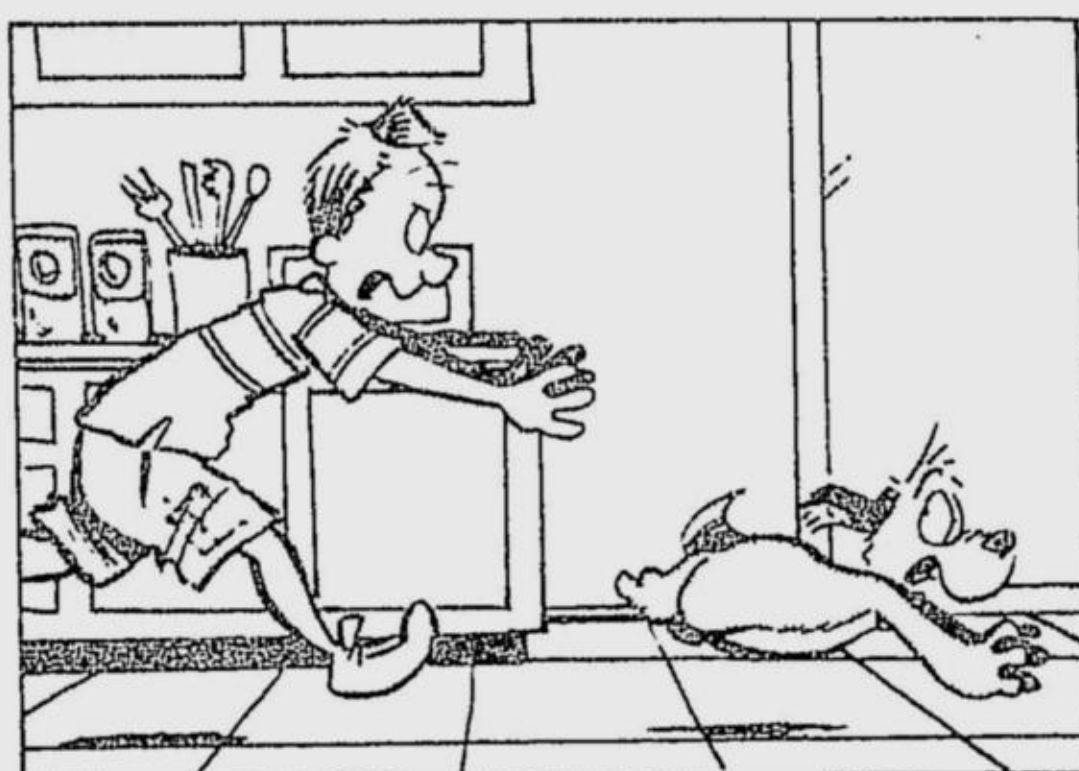
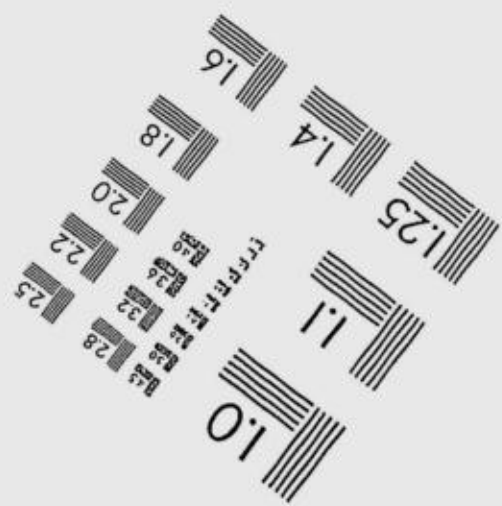
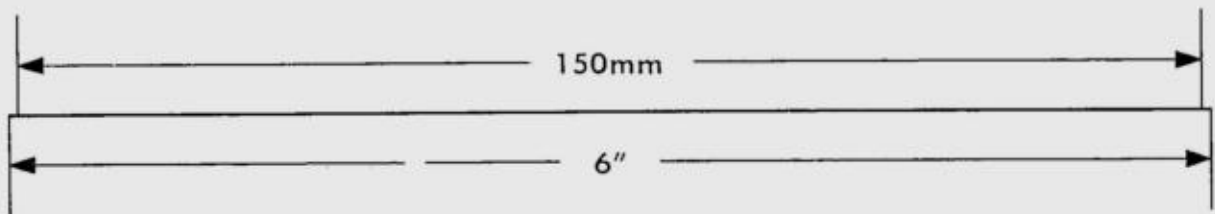
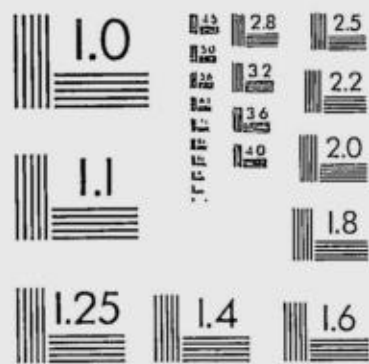
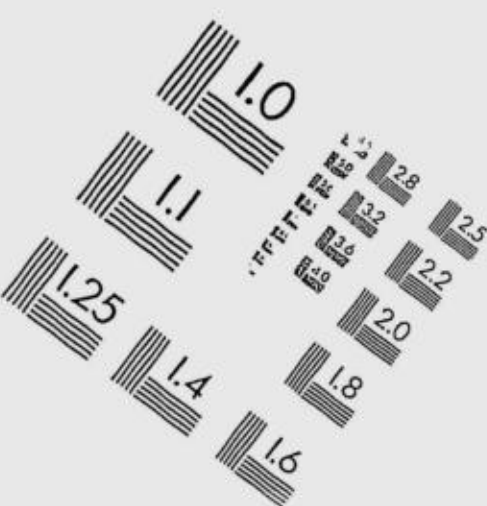
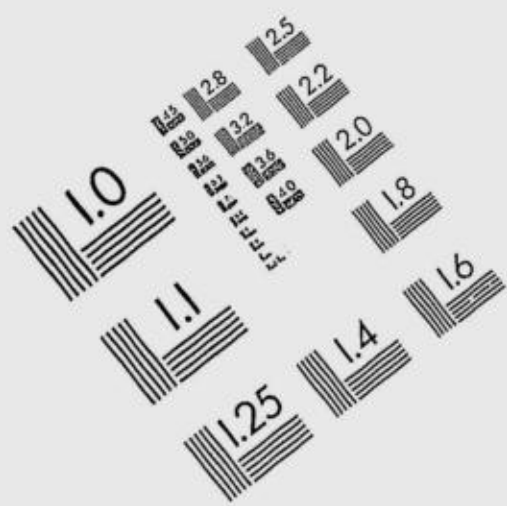
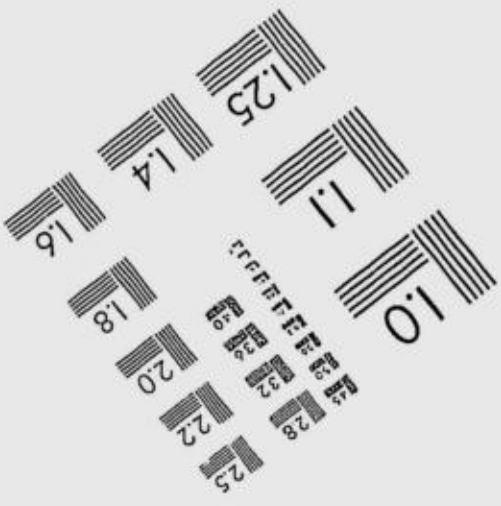
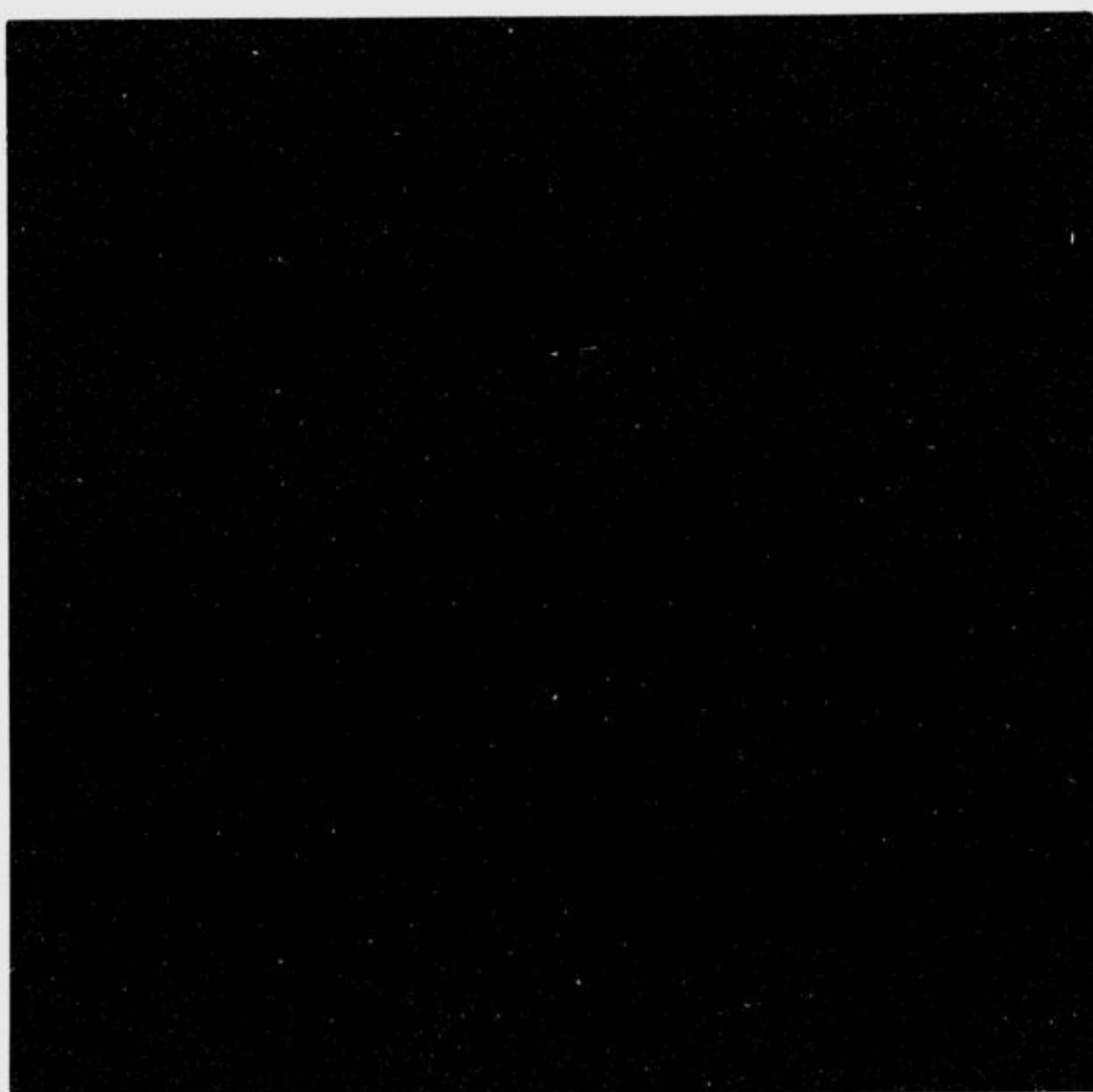


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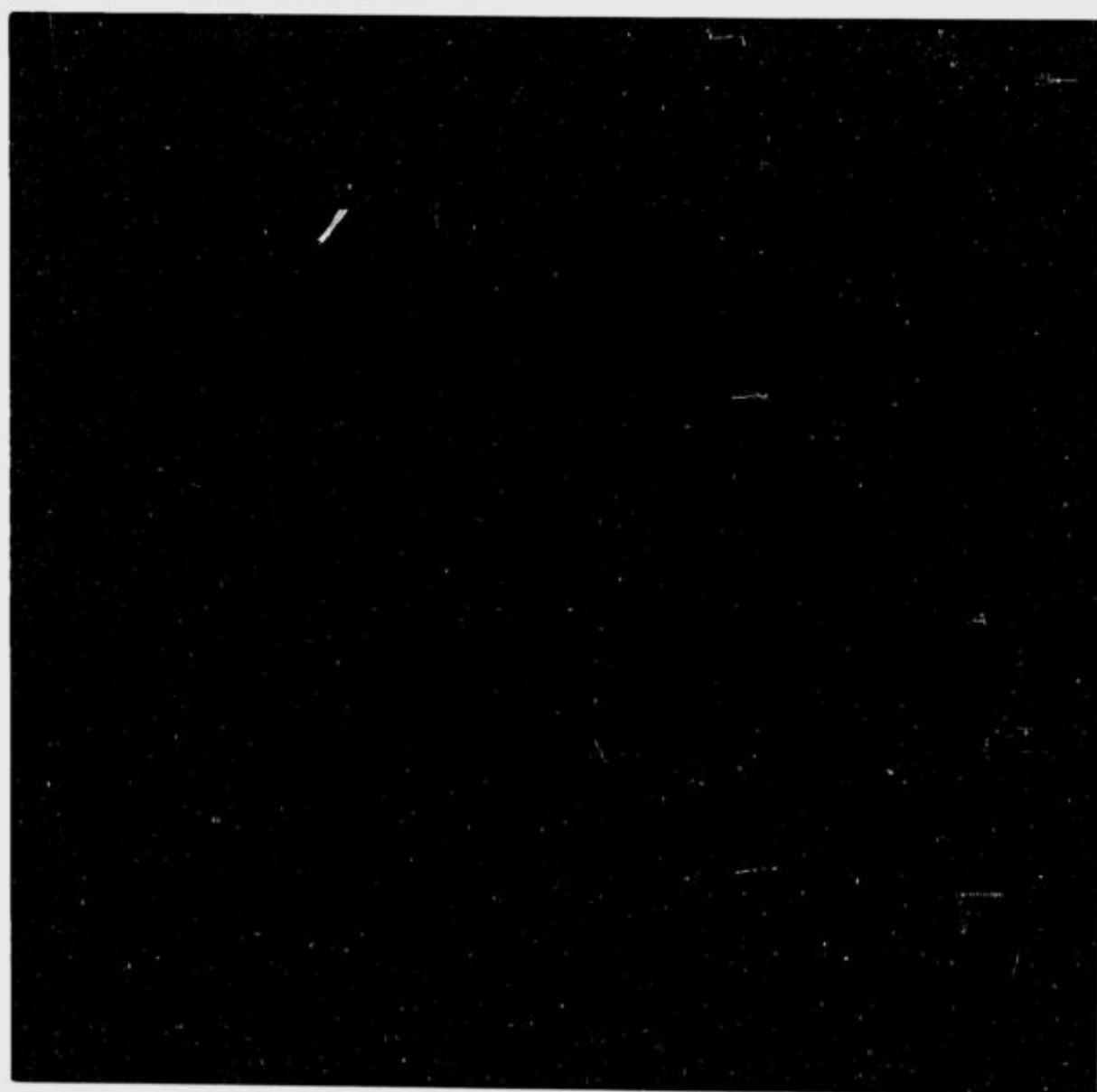
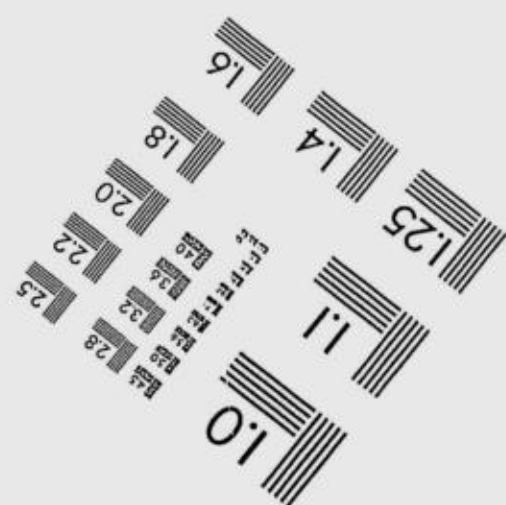
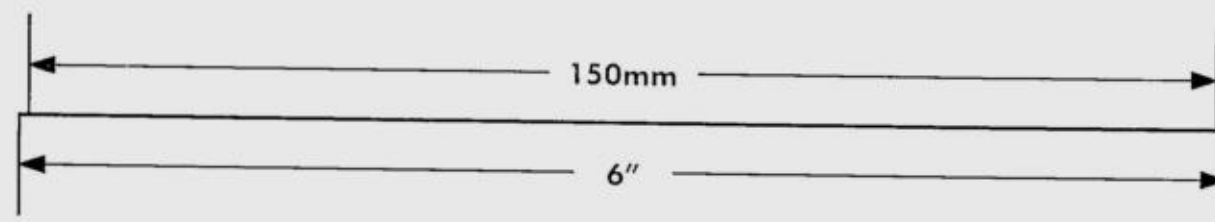
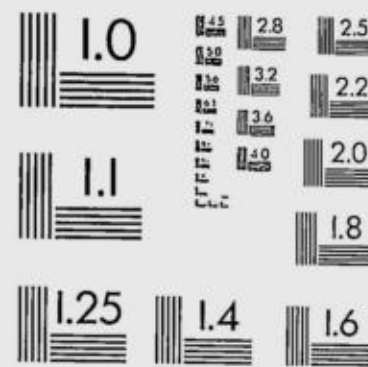
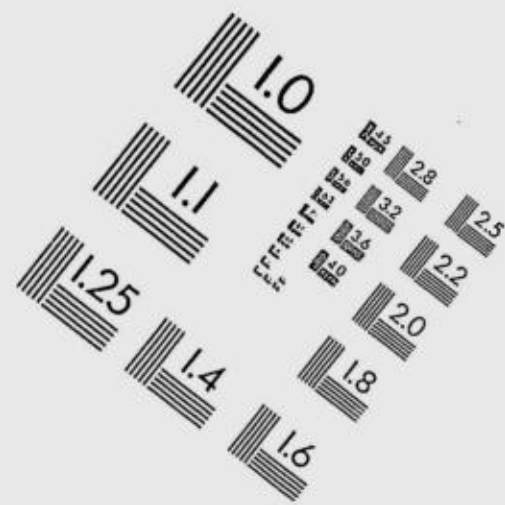
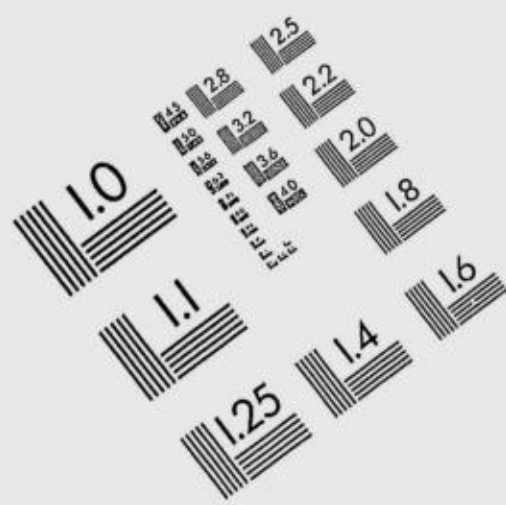


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